



Kristen Cloutier

33 Charles St.

Lewiston, ME 04240

Phone: (207) 807-1637

Kristen.Cloutier@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

January 22, 2024

Testimony of Rep. Kristen Cloutier in support of

LD 2053, An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Kristen Cloutier, and I represent House District 94, part of my hometown of Lewiston. I am pleased to cosponsor **LD 2053, An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code**.

LD 2053 will help make growing healthy food attainable to more of our Lewiston community members. Currently, there are certain structures that home gardeners use that do not meet Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, including common greenhouses that are used to extend growing times. For those who rely on their own gardens for sustenance, to supplement their grocery store purchases, or to grow more culturally-appropriate foods not commonly found in grocery stores, LD 2053 would ensure that they can continue to provide for their families without violating Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.