



21 Wells Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
www.Jordansfarm.com

A Family Tradition

William H. Jordan Jr
Pamela Jordan Butterfield
Carol Anne Jordan
Penelope A. Jordan

Re: LD 2212 An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment

Senator Igwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the committee I am Penny Jordan, one of the owners of Jordan's Farm a 5th generation mixed vegetable farm in Cape Elizabeth and I am here to testify neither for nor against LD 2212. I will speak from the perspective of a vegetable producer.

I look at three elements of this bill:

1. Board membership assignment - I feel the approach put forward by the bill's sponsor makes sense. I could suggest that we need to ensure that mid-sized and multi-generational farms be called-out but overall, the approach laid out will result in a board that brings a broad understanding of Maine agriculture and the challenges faced by agricultural businesses.
2. Uses of disbursements limited – “A producer that receives a disbursement from the fund **must have a processing or manufacturing facility** that is located in the State, shall use the disbursement to support the operations of the facility and shall **use the disbursement** to obtain the **primary agricultural, food or forest product** used in its commercial products from a farm or a forest or waters **in the State** or from offshore waters to be collected in the State”.

My concern here is the proposed amendment says the “producer must have a processing or manufacturing facility.” What if they don't? Does this mean that farmers without processing cannot apply for funds? I ask this because we need to address the cost of production and invest in helping farms reduce costs. A bill espousing strengthening Maine agriculture must invest in needs starting at the beginning – the making of the raw materials. Farms need to become more efficient – equipment for planting, transplanting, harvesting, and optimizing wash/pack houses will help farms reduce the cost of inputs. Equipment for production and packing need to be in this bill.

Secondly from a processors perspective I think there needs to be a % of products from Maine rather than all. Depending on the product a processor may not be able to be successful because of the seasonality of Maine's production.

3. Fiscal Note – this is a tough one for me because Maine agriculture is more challenged than ever. I could support a \$10,000,000 allocation if this truly helps address the cost of production, and I could see how farms will benefit and gain more dollars for the goods they produce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Penelope (Penny) Jordan
21 Wells Road Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
(207) 671-5341