

Elizabeth Schaab
Monroe
LD 2273

My name is Elizabeth Schaab and I live in Monroe, Maine.
I am asking you for your support of LD 2273.

This bill addresses some of the lack of protection for agricultural workers that most other workers enjoy under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

Possibly it was not intentional but leaving out agricultural workers from that act was racially motivated and it has done disproportional harm to people of color and indigenous peoples.

You have the ability to help mitigate that harm.

Please notice Section 654 which gives the Department of Labor exclusive authority to bring action for unpaid wages on behalf of the employee(s). which means, farm workers cannot utilize Private Rights of Action groups to investigate and litigate on their behalf.

Additionally, the Department of Labor has said that they are underfunded and understaffed. It makes sense to me migrants would have the protection but not the means to act if, dare I say if, their claims are not investigated in a timely way.

For me this is an important oversight on the part of the bill.

Thank you so much for your work and dedication. I applaud your willingness and ability to support the people of Maine.

Please notice section 654. I think you will agree it doesn't make sense to give different rights to recourse for agricultural workers. You can make a difference.

I ask you to vote "ought to pass" to help bring agricultural workers more in line with all working people.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Biggins Schaab
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