



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
LD 2273 An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Committee on Labor and Housing:

My name is Julie Ann Smith, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Farmers Coalition, a collective of progressive farmers deeply committed to ensuring the sustainable growth and protection of Maine's vital farming industry.

Our farmers are grateful to Governor Mills, Speaker Talbot-Ross, members of the Agricultural Workers Minimum Wage Committee, and this committee for their extraordinary efforts to assess and deeply consider the needs of agriculture in Maine. We are pleased to support LD 2273, as it is legislation that reflects the current positive relationships between our agricultural workforce and our family farms. Over 7,000 farms in Maine work year-round to provide high-quality, affordable food for our families, friends, and neighbors, and our workers are a critical part of growing food and supporting our communities. Maine Farmers Coalition members are committed to continuing to support and recognize the important contributions of our farm workers to ensuring food security for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important opportunity for Maine agriculture. I would be happy to answer any questions.

