

6 February 2025

132nd Maine Legislature's Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

LD 113: An Act to Require Food Labels to Disclose Use of Messenger Ribonucleic Acid Vaccine Material in Food Production

Chair Talbot Ross, Chair Pluecker, and Members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my VEHEMENT and STRONG opposition to the proposed LD 113 which would stigmatize, fear monger and erode trust and transparency in our food system while adding additional burdens on food producers, processors, retailers etc...As a dairy farmer and a consumer it is important to me to know that our food system is sound and secure, free from avoidable risk and danger. As a dairy farmer and consumer it is also important that our food system is one of earned trust. The guidance and labeling of foods should be based in knowledge and peer reviewed science and its purpose to inform consumers like me, not make us afraid of our food. This bill does NOTHING to truly inform and is a fear tactic to not only make us consumers afraid of food, but afraid of science and will serve to erode trust in farmers and the expertise of those who raise food and those who provide guidance and care such as veterinarians. More importantly, it will do nothing to improve the security of our food system, improve the welfare and health of livestock, or further the trust and transparency of the relationship between those who raise and produce our food and those who depend upon others to do so.

The decision to utilize vaccines is one that is left to the farmer & rancher in consultation with their veterinarian and that decision is based upon expertise and science as well as an understanding that there is a greater good and greater responsibility for the welfare and health of not just a herd or flock, but of others. Vaccine approvals are well documented and are subject to rigorous testing standards that other experts have surely detailed. As farmer and consumer I depend upon more options being made available so that I might deal with, responsibly, the new challenges that arise as well as old ones we have not yet overcome, not a narrowing of options due to fear mongering labels. I know of no good reason why someone would want to propose a campaign of stigma and fear mongering to make it more difficult for me to have more options to improve the health and wellbeing of my herd, which is key to ensuring a secure food system. I do not need more people afraid of the food we work so hard to produce and I do not need more things like fear mongering labels to make it even harder to be a farmer.

The actual science regarding mRNA and vaccines shows that there is no evidence to suggest any short- or long-term negative consequences to humans or animals due to the inclusion of mRNA in platform vaccines, or any vaccine that is licensed by the USDA. That much is clear and should, at the very least, have been more than enough to have prevented this proposal from getting this far, but since it did not please note that I, as a dairy farmer and consumer am opposed to this attempt to make it harder to both put food on the shelf and put it on the table.

Sincerely,
Jenni Tilton-Flood
Flood Brothers, LLC
Clinton, Maine