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Locker Project
LD 415

The Locker Project, based in South Portland, is one of the many nonprofits that participates in the Mainers Feeding Mainers program, which enables us to distribute locally grown produce to food-insecure residents. Our programs serve more than 2500 children and families across Greater Portland who are at risk of hunger, and the produce we access through MFM is by far the freshest and highest-quality food available to us. In 2024, we were able to share nearly 40,000 pounds of fresh Maine tomatoes, greens, carrots, potatoes and another items through MFM, in many cases serving as the only source of fresh fruits and vegetables participating families have. Children need access to nutritious foods to grow and learn, and by becoming familiar with fresh produce early in life, they are more likely to develop the healthy eating habits that support a productive adulthood.

As I'm sure others have testified, this program is also vital to the survival of the small farmers on whom our entire food economy depends.

Mainers Feeding Mainers is a critically important program, and maintaining it should be a top priority for legislators concerned about economic stability and the health of Maine people.