

Amanda Scarpone
Poland
LD 415

Amanda Scarpone
Poland, Maine
March 4, 2025

To Members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Amanda Scarpone, I am a resident of Poland, Maine, and I am a public health professional who works in the non-profit and philanthropy field. I am also a Board member of the nonprofit organization Cultivating Community.

I am writing to you today in support of LD 415, An Act to Support Hunger Prevention in Maine. As a public health professional, I know that equitable access to healthy food is a key part of Mainers having healthy and thriving lives. This bill would provide an additional \$1million per year to the Statewide Hunger Relief Program, which is funding especially needed now as federal funding freezes put funding for these types of programs in jeopardy. This act is key for adequate nutrition in the state, and it provides a steady source of income for our own farmers in Maine. The programs enabled by this act also makes our communities more resilient and less dependent on the national food systems that are often unstable and also do not provide access to culturally important foods that our neighbors deserve. Maine is a state that prides itself on its fresh food, our farms, and our innovative restaurants. We should also pride ourselves on how we feed each other, and our communities. LD 415 helps us do just that.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD415.

Thank you,
Amanda Scarpone