

Katherine Bessey
Sumner
LD 468

Testimony of Katherine Bessey of Sumner before the 132st Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Dear members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry.

My name is Katherine Bessey, I am a resident of Sumner], and I am here today as a Technical Assistance Provider to food and farm businesses and markets. I want to express my support of LD 468 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

I am a small farm and business TA provider in the State of Maine and this funding is critical for the food markets that my clients are part of. These funds help cover the cost of the bonus bucks redemption for folks to purchase fruits and vegetables with, help cover EBT equipment costs for their markets, and help promote the program to get more community members using SNAP to markets that helps keep these resources circulating in the state economy instead of moving elsewhere. I cannot stress the importance of CONTINUOUS FUNDING at the \$1.2 million level per year. If it is continuous, then the market can plan for growth and expansion of the program without any funding uncertainties or interruption.