Mikolaj Rusch Waterville LD 468

Testimony of [NAME HERE] of [TOWN NAME HERE] 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 Mikolaj Rusch, I am a resident of Waterville, and I am here today as a shopper to express my support of LD 468 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

I am a recipient of SNAP, I receive food stamps and regularly shop at the farmers market for produce and other food items. The Harvest Bucks program has been essential in helping me access produce during more of the month, and times when I don't have enough food stamps. I typically use my food stamps at the beginning of the month, and use my Harvest Bucks near the end of the month when funds are low. This is a critical program that helps folks afford more produce and be healthier! My only complaint is that I would like to use Harvest Bucks for all food items, not just produce.

Please fund this program more so we can continue to eat healthier and have healthier communities!

Thank you.