

Nicole Sigouin
Sanford
LD 468

My name is Nikki Sigouin, I live in Sanford and shop at our Sanford Farmer's Market in season, and the Berwick Indoor Market in the winter. The markets have become an integral part of feeding our family, and supporting our community. When our kids were younger, and we qualified to receive Maine Harvest Bucks, they really helped us stretch our food budget, and meet our family goals of buying locally, eating in season, minimizing our consumer footprint, and supporting our neighbors, farmers and vendors. I and my family heartily support LD-468: An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food

We are a family of five, and we benefitted from the 1 to 1 dollar matching of Maine Harvest Bucks. From week to week, as a frugal shopper, I was able to supplement my budget for the market with the MHB and we were often able to put together 4-5 meals a week of super fresh and local foods, and stock up on foods that could be stored long term, like garlic, onions, carrots, and potatoes.

I think Maine Harvest Bucks are a very important part of the continued success of our farmer's markets. Many people in our community don't have cars or drive, rely on SNAP/EBT and WIC, and live within walking distance of our Market location. Our Farmer's Market gives them access to high quality foods, that are super fresh (often picked in the morning before it's on the table for sale), and a sense of community pride because we have the chance to support local farmers and businesses so they can continue to show up for us season after season.

Harvest Bucks are also important to our local farms and market vendors. I think having matching 1 to 1 Harvest Bucks, help shoppers feel empowered to spend more and puts that money in local pockets, and that is a financial benefit to have farmers and vendors continually come back to our local markets.

Please show your support, and vote in favor of LD 468. Thank you.