

Juliet Cox
South Portland
LD 468

Testimony of Juliet Cox of South Portland 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 Juliet Cox, I am a resident of South Portland, 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.

Nutritional Incentive programs, like Maine Harvest Bucks boost small business viability, support my neighbors in getting healthy and local food and are a great way for our State to represent its core values. They make access to the great farmers markets here a level playing field and teach children of the importance of the connection to the land and where their food comes from.

I support MFFM's call for CONTINUOUS FUNDING at the \$1.2 million level per year. If it is continuous, then the markets (and MFFM) can plan for growth and expansion of the program without any funding uncertainties or interruption.

We are living in challenging times and need to support our neighbors and farmers more than ever,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Juliet