

Molly DellaRoman
Brooklin
LD 468

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

My name is Molly DellaRoman and I am a resident of Brooklin, ME and I am writing to you today as a farmer to express my support of LD 468 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food. My partner Tim Skillin and I own and operate 5 Star Nursery and Orchard, a diversified MOFGA-certified organic farm. We sell at several farmers markets in the Blue Hill peninsula area and can attest that the markets that we attend that accept SNAP/EBT and Maine Harvest Bucks are by far our most profitable markets. We cannot express how critical this program has been in not only getting organic produce into the hands of everyone but has also been a phenomenal boon to the local farmers' market scene. Truly a win-win for the local, rural economy here.

The SNAP/EBT coordinator at our markets are volunteer positions. Having guaranteed, continuous funding for this program would mean more support for our markets' information booths, help in spreading the word in the community to reach more folks that need these services, and the chance to get more markets to be able to afford the EBT equipment and to be able to participate. In these tumultuous times, having continuous funding is paramount to avoiding any uncertainties or interruptions for customers or farmers.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony,
Molly DellaRoman