

Patricia Hager
Mercer
LD 468

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

My name is Patricia Hager, I am a resident of Mercer, and I am here today as a Farmers' Market shopper to express my support of LD 468 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

I support this bill very strongly because it has such a powerful multiplier effect. The money appropriated strengthens farmers, families, and communities by increasing access to fresh food for families challenged with food insecurity. Farmers have more customers. And the entire community is strengthened as a result.

Many times in farmers markets I have participated in the great discussions between farmers and shoppers about how to cook fresh produce simply and nutritiously. It's that powerful interaction that this bill supports -- the direct exchange between families and farmers. We all benefit.

Thank you for the work you do and for your consideration of my letter.

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