

Patricia Johnson
Steep Falls Farmers' Market
LD 468

Testimony of Patricia Johnson of Steep Falls 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 Patricia Johnson, I am a resident of Steep Falls, and I am here today as a volunteer to the Steep Falls Farmers' Market to express my support of LD 468 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

I have dedicated the past ten summers volunteering for the Steep Falls Farmer's Market. I man the info booth that processes the SNAP purchases that included the distribution of the Maine Harvest Bucks. This market is all run by volunteers and the burden is also shared by fellow vendors. It has been a thrill to witness many SNAP recipients return to redeem this MHB benefit and return year after year. I consider the CONTINUOUS FUNDING of this program to be very important in accomplishing its community goals of helping to fight food insecurity. If this funding is continuous, then the Steep Falls Farmers' Market can plan for growth and expansion of the program without any funding uncertainties or interruption.