

Kara Potter
Washington
LD 468

Kara Potter
Washington, ME
04574
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Testimony of Kara Potter of Washington, ME 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 Kara Potter, I am a resident of Washington, Maine, and I am here today as a Farmer's Market Shopper and Volunteer to express my support of LD 468 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

I volunteer both at Come Spring Food Pantry in Union, ME and at Pumpkin Vine Family Farm in Somerville, ME.

At Come Spring Food Pantry we encourage our neighbors to access fresh food through the Harvest Bucks program as we see how expensive it can be to obtain fresh, nutritious food. This program makes it much easier to meet this need while supporting our area farms too!

As a volunteer at Pumpkin Vine Family Farm I see first hand how accessible the Harvest Bucks makes nutritious, local food and I see the connections that are built between the farmers and the shoppers. These are essential for community resilience as well as personal nutrition, keeping farm land in operation, helping farmers make a living, and more. In fact, at one point the stat was shared that Pumpkin Vine Family Farm's participation in the Harvest Bucks program and the rural locaiton of their particular farmer's market worked together to increase access to fresh, local food for a high percentage of residents in our area this year!

The Harvest Bucks program is a wonderful program for farmers, residents, farmer's market shopper and really all Mainers!

I hope you'll support LD 468 - An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

Thank you for your time.