

River Weinstock
Starks
LD 468

Testimony of River Weinstock of Starks 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 River, I am a resident of Starks in Somerset county, 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.

The use of Maine Harvest bucks has been instrumental in making sure my family has access to high quality and fresh local food despite experiencing economic hardship. I am grateful to be able to receive SNAP benefits and even more grateful to be able to double my benefits when shopping at our local farmers market thanks to Maine Harvest bucks. All Mainers deserve access to high quality and local food as well as dignity. I believe that continuing this program is vital for Mainers to be able to continue accessing the food that they deserve. Everyone should be able to enjoy local produce at our farmers markets despite economic status. For my household, this has made a huge difference in the quality of food we eat and we are so thankful to live in a place like Maine that prioritizes the health of its lower income residents. I urge the legislative body to pass LD 468. Thank you for your time.