

Lisa DePasqual  
Brooklin  
LD 468

Testimony of Lisa DePasqual of Brooklin 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 Lisa DePasqual, I am a resident of Brooklin, and I am here today as the director of the Brooklin Community Garden to express my support of LD 468 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

Our community garden, situated on private land, hosts gardeners who steward individual plots to grow food for their families, and other plots managed by volunteers to grow free food for our peninsula. Last year, we donated 186.3 pounds of produce to Healthy Peninsula's Magic Food Bus, and over a hundred ears of corn to Brooklin townspeople, and countless carrots for our local school's K-8 students to harvest and enjoy. But what we do through volunteer efforts is not sufficient to the challenge of feeding the Blue Hill peninsula. I stand in solidarity with local farmers who have the capacity to produce much more than my gardeners and volunteers can. I support the funding in LD 468 to allow ALL my neighbors access to fresh and nutritious food at our local Farmers Markets, not only the well-heeled here on the coast. Together, we can cultivate a resilient and sustainable food system for Maine. Together, we can feed our Maine communities from Maine soil and with just this small boost from Maine taxpayer dollars.