

Miles Lambke
Skowhegan
LD 468

Testimony of Miles Lambke of Skowhegan, 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 Miles Lambke, I am a resident of Skowhegan, ME, and I am here today as a former employee of Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets and a lover of local food to express my support of LD 468 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

As a 22 year old senior in college preparing to enter the workforce, the summer I spent interning with the Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets was the most impactful work experience I've had. Firsthand, I collected survey responses from SNAP shoppers at different markets around Maine, each of which had their own personal story about how SNAP funds and the Maine Harvest Bucks program have had massively positive impacts on their quality of life and ease of access to good food. Additionally, it was an inspiration to see how this system helps to not only support low-income shoppers, but puts money directly in the hands of the local farmers that are the bedrock of many of our Maine communities. These markets provide not only food access, but stable and safe social networks in our communities. In my experience, SNAP and MHB are elegant solutions backed by the public that both support food access for vulnerable communities and directly support our local farmers, and I sincerely hope that such good work can continue to be funded in our state. As we move forward in Maine, these kinds of solutions help communities thrive and promote food stability and resiliency in an uncertain broader landscape. Thank you!