

Edgelynn Venuti
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LD 124

My name is Edgelynn Venuti, and I am a student at the University of Maine in Orono, originally from Robbinston. I write to you today as a student, activist, and concerned young citizen to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 124.

This bill is a crucial step toward helping Maine communities become more self-sufficient, especially as climate change threatens agricultural practices and food security. LD 124 would provide funding opportunities and foster connections that empower local projects to grow, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Community gardens, in particular, offer a meaningful way for towns to strengthen relationships, promote sustainable practices, and educate people about food production. These spaces not only nourish communities but also create opportunities for learning and collaboration.

One aspect of this bill that I am especially passionate about is its prioritization of veterans and other disadvantaged groups. Veterans sacrifice so much for our country, and many face significant challenges when they return home. My uncle, who served in the Marine Corps, developed multiple sclerosis due to war-related injuries that left him physically disabled. He finds great joy in outdoor activities and learning opportunities, and I know firsthand how essential programs like these are for veterans’ well-being. Supporting them in meaningful ways is the least we can do in return for their service.

LD 124 would help create stronger, more resilient communities while giving back to those who have given so much. I urge you to support this bill and vote “ought to pass.”