

June Sleeper

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Hello,

It is imperative that we protect farmland to ensure that we can continue to grow the land base needed to feed our communities. Both young and old people are facing food insecurity, and as the daily news shows it is an issue that is not going away. In fact, the number of people affected continues to grow. People in The State of Maine should be able to access affordable, locally produced food every day. It shouldn't be an 'option' available only a few days a week. It shouldn't be a question to be answered by an opt-in checkbox on a form. Without nutritious food children and adults don't learn and function as well as they could. We all need, and deserve, the high-quality food that is grown and raised on farmland in Maine. LD 593 is for Mainers, and it supports their lives through conservation and the protection of farmland in the State of Maine every day.

Please protect our farmland so that we can continue on a positive trajectory and strengthen food security. Risking the continuous loss of acreage as our population grows is not helping the people of Maine prosper or maintain their health. Without continuing protection for farmland, we will continue to be forced to buy food that is shipped to us from out of state. We have the resources to nourish the people who live in Maine, but only if the farmland doesn't get developed for housing and business developments. By ensuring that more farmland is conserved we have a fighting chance to be able to feed our communities. We can't afford to lose anymore farmland acreage.

It is critical that we have the land base needed to grow our agricultural economy and strengthen food security for our communities, state, and region. Farmland is the foundation that must be protected. Please support LD 593 so that we can continue to protect working lands and waterfronts that nourish our people.

Thank you,

June Sleeper