



Testimony of Garrett Mason  
In Support of LD 593  
An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program

Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture Conservation and Forestry. My name is Garrett Mason, I am a resident of Lisbon Falls, and am a Partner at Dirigo Public Affairs. I am here today representing our client, the Maine Farm Bureau and am here in support of LD 593.

LD 593 will provide ongoing funding for the Lands for Maine's Future (LMF) Program. This funding will go a long way to ensuring that Maine's agricultural lands remain available for food production and will be used in perpetuity to produce more food for Maine people.

Maine has lost thousands of acres of farmland to development over the past few decades. This trend threatens our ability to produce food locally, forces greater reliance on imported goods, and weakens rural economies. The LMF Program has long been a cornerstone of land conservation in Maine, but its now more important than ever. Agricultural land is not just open space—it is a vital economic resource that sustains communities and ensures food security for our state.

The pandemic underscored the fragility of national and global food supply chains. Maine has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to invest in its own agricultural capacity. By preserving farmland, we are investing in a more self-reliant food system that benefits Maine people first. We must continue to build a stronger agricultural sector and bolster our food independence. This bill provides the funding necessary to make that vision a reality.

On behalf of the Maine Farm Bureau, I urge this committee to support LD 593 and ensure that farmland preservation remains a central focus of the Lands for Maine's Future Program. This investment will pay dividends for farmers, consumers, and the state's long-term economic and food security.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.