

Mary Royal
Winterport
LD 357

Good Day Members of the Committee on Labor, You have a number of significant bills to consider this session that would dramatically affect the lives of those who live and work in Maine. LD 357 is one such bill. Perhaps the most overlooked segment of our labor force is the group of agricultural workers who provide the labor needed to bring Maine's agricultural products to market. Their efforts have long been undervalued. It is time to correct that. Their labor is as valuable as that of fast food workers or retail workers (of which I am one) who are covered by Maine's minimum wage. They do not receive tips to augment their pay, and they do not receive the same guarantee tipped workers receive. In my mind it is a clear case of worker discrimination. Like all workers if they are not performing their jobs to the satisfaction of their employer they can be dismissed. It is time to provide them with a wage received by all who work in Maine. I hope you will support LD 357 and vote OTP so that this discrimination in our labor laws is abolished.