

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and distinguished members of the committee on Labor,

My name is Johanna Davis and I am an agriculture employee at Villageside Farm in Freedom, Maine. Farmer workers deserve the same rights as all other employees in this state. The idea that it would be right to pay a farm worker less for their work, lower than any other job, lower than what the state has deemed as minimum wage requirement is preposterous. Farming is ranked as one of the hardest jobs in this country. Strenuous manual labor, working in extreme weather conditions, operating mechanized equipment for long hours, how do any of these categories suggest these skilled workers should deserve lower pay? Farms are essential for food. Food is essential for life. Farm workers are essential to farms. Requiring the payment of no less than the state's minimum wage is the least we can do.

I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 357 An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers.

Thank you,

Johanna Davis

Freedom, ME