

132nd Maine Legislature's Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs

LD783: An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center

Testimony in Favour of LD 783

Chair Rafferty, Chair Murphy and esteemed members of the Education & Cultural Committee:

My name is Jenni Tilton-Flood and I am an owner and manger at Flood Brothers, LLC in Clinton, Maine, as well as a Mainer and Mum. Our family dairy farm is operated and owned by a 3 generation family that represents 15 family members, and 5 households. Our operation is home to 4,200 cows, 2,200 of which we milk everyday and produce 18,000 gallons of milk which finds it way onto our neighbours' tables within 24-48 hours after it leaves our farm. As a part of Maine agriculture our farm provides more than just an economic impact for our State-we are an integral part of the food system providing fresh, high quality food and sustainable nutrition and truly impacting the triple bottom line of sustainability: community, environment and economy. Because of all of this it is important to our business, sector and family that Maine's workforce and people are supported, invested in and supported and we urge your support for LD 783 and the work of the Maine Multicultural Center.

The Maine Multicultural Center provides needed and important work, leadership, and resources and our economy, community and landscape of Maine is now, more than ever, dependent upon investments that provide needed and integral services to ensure a growing, fortified and robust Maine. Far too often people think that the distance between our farms and our Main Streets is farther than it actually is. Our family farm and business knows that it is a very short distance, the connection is deeply rooted and that we are co-dependent. We recognize the necessity and need for training of foreign born workforce professionals and how that is important for Maine's success.

Please continue the needed support of the Maine Multicultural Center through passage of LD 783.

Thank you for your time and attention and your continued work as citizen legislators.

Sincerely and with Gratitude,

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