

Ken Morse
Maine Food Policy Work Group
LD 1252

My name is Ken Morse. I live in Norway and I co-coordinate the Maine Food Policy Work Group, which is made up of about 100 individuals and representative of various groups. LD 1252 was selected by our Work Group as a top priority.

So, I'm writing to ask you to support LD 1252.

Maine's Agricultural Economy is fundamental to Maine resilience in these troubling times. As global systems are increasingly chaotic, it is of growing importance for Maine to produce our own food to feed our families and children. This Bill is critical as we work to achieve this goal through the operation of Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investments.

These investments also will provide equitable access to needed capital and business support that is not currently available in Maine in order to advance innovation, growth and job creation in food processing businesses that purchase from Maine producers.

It also strengthens coordination and collaboration between public and private partnerships. And it aligns with much of the economic and climate action planning which Maine has undertaken including the Maine Economic Development Plan, the Climate Action Plan and Ending Hunger by 2030 Plans amongst others.

Having worked for 20 years on school and institutional procurement of Maine products, and given federal cuts that are hurting these goals, the Investment Fund become even more important. Supporting all our food producers is such a wise move for Maine.

Please support this Bond, and many of will work tirelessly to get it passed by Maine citizens.

Thank You