

Erica Emery
Farmington
LD 1140

Dear Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

I am a vegetable farmer in Farmington, Maine. We feed our community primarily through a CSA program. I am writing to encourage you to support this bond bill in order to strengthen agricultural infrastructure in Maine.

I am very proud of the fact that we are able to feed so many people in our community, that we provide jobs for members of our community, and that we do our best to keep our soil and air clean and healthy. We are able to pay ourselves a modest income from our farm operations. However, at the end of the season, there never seems to be enough funds to invest in critical infrastructure that would make our farm more efficient, economical, and profitable. Costs of goods continue to rise as does the living wage we need to pay our workers. We can generally keep up with these things by charging slightly more for our products, but we are generally unable to invest in equipment and infrastructure to scale our business and provide more food for our community.

The fund being proposed in this bill will help so many farms continue to do what they are good at while also helping them with much needed investments to maintain the economic viability of their farms. Thank you for your support in getting this bill on ballots for voters.

Sincerely,
Erica Emery
Rustic Roots Farm