

Testimony of Scott Carter
62 Buck n Doe Trail
Augusta, Maine
571-359-1042

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Hearing before the Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Cross Building, Room 214 at 2:00 p.m.

Good afternoon, Chairpersons Talbot-Ross and Pluecker, and members of the Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Thank you for holding this public hearing and for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Scott Carter, and I am a resident of Augusta. My comments today are my own based on my knowledge of social safety net programs that support our State's citizens facing economic and related challenges.

Prior to moving to Maine in 2021, I enjoyed a 30 year career in the Federal government, including serving as Chief of Government Affairs at USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) that administers the Nations 16 Federal nutrition programs including SNAP from 2007 to 2019, and as Disaster Response Coordinator for the FNS Office of Emergency Management from 2019-2021 before retiring in November 2021. I have an expert knowledge of the laws, regulations and policies that must be followed by states and local governments and organizations when administering federal government assistance programs such as SNAP as well as the requirements of those receiving the benefits.

I am testifying in support of LD-2400 and LD 2040 and have some suggested changes below.

LD 2400 -

- Agree with Federal language be removed
- Suggest the project amount increase to \$100 thousand dollars
- Change matching requirement be a 25% (applicant) and 75% (State of Maine)
- Appreciate focus on ensuring funds are used to purchase local food from local farmers
- Need language identifying total amount of funds available per fiscal year

LD-2040 -

- In Sec 1, add "farmers and farmer organizations" be included to provide input to the annual survey

- In the second paragraph, suggest the word “may” be changed to “require” to especially include veterans and seniors.

The changes required by USDA to their programs in Maine is a serious threat to our citizens in so many ways. I encourage the committee and legislature to remain focused on local solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.

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