

Caleb Chessie  
Acton fair  
LD 2096

My name is Caleb Chessie, and I am the President of the Acton Fair, one of Maine's licensed agricultural fairs and a proud supporter of the agricultural fair tradition across our state.

I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 2096.

Our primary concern lies with the bill's redefinition of "agricultural fair." As written, this change could drastically impact multiple fairs across Maine. For some, the consequences could be severe enough to threaten their continued operation. There is genuine concern that at least one long-standing agricultural fair could be eliminated entirely as a result of these changes.

Agricultural fairs are more than dates on a calendar. They are community institutions that support agriculture, youth programs, local economies, and long-standing traditions. Changes of this seriousness should be made with great care and in close collaboration with the fairs themselves.

Many fair representatives have expressed their opposition to LD 2096 and have shared their concerns through written testimony, emails, and virtual participation

I want the Committee to know that I, along with other Fair Presidents, am willing and available to work with you and to respond to any friendly amendments that would address these issues and protect Maine's agricultural fairs.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your continued support of Maine's agricultural fairs and the communities they serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caleb Chessie  
President, Acton Fair