

January 27, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Plueker and distinguished members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. My name is Chad Caldwell, and I am writing to you today as the President of the Bangor State Fair in opposition to LD 2096.

While we do not oppose the bill in its entirety, we do oppose Section 1, lines 11-26 and Section 3, Subsection 5. Changing the definition of what a fair is not necessary. Agricultural fairs have been operating under this definition successfully for many years. Changing the definition of what a fair is by using the suggested wording would be detrimental to many smaller fairs now, and could have a significant impact on all fairs in the future, with the changing agricultural climate.

Each fair in Maine is unique, which is what makes them so special. The hundreds of volunteers put their hearts and souls into making their fairs a special place to visit. We remain the premier agricultural education entity in the State of Maine – we do not need to be redefined.

I will be available at the work session to answer any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration along with your continued support of our 25 Maine Agricultural Fairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Caldwell

President

Bangor State Fair

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