

Testimony of Senator Teresa S. Pierce in support of
LD 2096, An Act Regarding Scheduling of Agricultural Fairs and Pulling Events
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

January 27, 2026

Good morning, Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and esteemed members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. My name is Teresa Pierce. I represent Senate District 25, which includes Falmouth, Cumberland, North Yarmouth, most of Yarmouth, Gray and Long Island. I am also honored to serve as the Senate Assistant Majority Leader. I write to you in strong support of LD 2096.

The Cumberland Fair has been a staple of our community for 153 years, and this summer we will celebrate the 154th edition. For years, Agricultural Fairs, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry have established schedules to ensure minimal overlap of these exciting annual fairs.

Unfortunately last summer, the longstanding agreements were not followed leaving the Cumberland Fair in unnecessary competition with another agricultural fair. This change caused much disruption with the early departure of livestock and participants in exhibitions, competitions, pulling events.

LD 2096 bill would provide the Commissioner tools to address any such repeat occurrence. In effect, all the fairs would be more secure, knowing their dates were firm and cannot be infringed upon by another fair. The Cumberland Fair welcomes residents and visitors alike from across Maine and beyond who contribute to the local agricultural economy.

I appreciate Representative Mitchell for leading on this issue, collaborating with fair organizers, farmers and community leaders in a good-faith effort to ensure these iconic fairs each have their own week for fairgoers to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue for my district. I encourage you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2096.