



January 20, 2026

Good afternoon Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

My name is Amy Sassi and I am the Director of Government Affairs for Good Shepherd Food Bank. Good Shepherd Food Bank works statewide to end hunger in Maine by partnering with community food pantries, meal sites, and other hunger-relief organizations, while advocating for policies and systems that strengthen food security. Central to our collective work is a strong, resilient Maine food system—one that supports local farmers and producers while ensuring that all Mainers can access affordable, nutritious food.

LD 2094 provides a critical investment in Maine's agricultural and forestry sectors by supporting infrastructure, innovation, and capacity-building. For the charitable food network, these investments have direct and meaningful impacts. When Maine farmers have the resources they need to grow, harvest, process, and distribute food efficiently, food pantries and food retailers are better able to source fresh, local products. Farmers can plan and allocate their resources to increase their own financial security. This investment strengthens local supply chains, reduces transportation costs, and keeps food dollars circulating within Maine communities.

LD 2094 reflects a long-term, forward-looking approach. Strategic investments today will help Maine build a more resilient and sustainable food system tomorrow. LD 2094 is an investment in agriculture and forestry, in public health, economic development, and food security.

Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine urges the Committees to support this bill and allow Maine voters the opportunity to approve this bond.

Strengthening Maine's agricultural and forestry sectors strengthens Maine as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your continued commitment to Maine's farmers, producers, and food security work.

In partnership,

Amy Sassi  
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