

Seth Kroeck
Brunswick
LD 299

Good morning honorable members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, attending representatives and staff.

My name is Seth Kroeck and I run Crystal Spring Farm in Brunswick. I grow wholesale vegetables and wild blueberries for retailers in Maine and New England. My farm has been in business for 22 years.

In an average year I produce 200,000 lbs of produce. Our farm grows, washes grades for quality, packages and distributes products that are ready for sale to Whole Foods, Rosemont Market and Crown of Maine distribution. Over the past seven years we have been able to apply for capital grants and loans that have allowed us to hire consultants and add equipment that has almost doubled our capacity. Our farm, and most other Maine farms run single digit profit margins. These investments would not have been possible without ag specific funding opportunities.

Please support Maine's backbone industry and support LD 299.