

Jay LaJoie
Van Buren
LD 2238

I would like to express the importance of passing the proposed legislation LD 473 to support the Maine Potato Industry and plant health in Maine. As a seed potato grower, it is essential to maintain a regulation that protects our industry from the introduction of pest and disease that could negatively impact the health of our crop, limit our markets due to quarantines, Canada is a significant potato seed customer of mine and if a quarantine would occur it would have a detrimental impact on our 5 generation family farm. The recent Phytosanitary issue with importation of potatoes from a region affected Columbia Root Knot Nematode should have not been allowed by our state inspection agency and this legislation is important to ensure clarity on the matter to prevent it from happening again. Please consider your support of LD 473 to support our industry and the many benefits the industry provides to the state of Maine.