



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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**Testimony in Support of LD 95:
Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the
Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to Food**

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and my colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. I am Justin Fecteau and I proudly represent House District 86, which consists of the western and northern portions of Augusta.

Ever since I read the first draft of the Honorable Craig Hickman's Right to Food bill last session I have been a big supporter of the effort here in the Maine Legislature. While most bills are simple text written in statute in order to convey a message, this resolution, to establish a right to food, is pure poetry. Whether it is the theory of Evolution or of Creationism, the Right to Food is the Original Right of all living beings.

This committee, and the 130th Legislature, can take appropriate action to carve our Original Right into stone to ensure, "all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to save and exchange seeds and the right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being."

Simply put in the words of Joel Salatin, America's most famous farmer, "the shorter the chain between raw food and fork, the fresher it is and the more transparent the system is."

This isn't a bill, it isn't a resolution, it's a manifesto of our Original Right. It's a public health statement, it's an affirmation of our relationship with Mother Earth, and it speaks to the spirit of Maine.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Fecteau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rep. Justin Fecteau