

LD 1823 "An Act to Protect and Respect the Right to Food"

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

My name is Catherine Morrow. I live on an old farm in Kenduskeag, Maine. I am a homesteading, homeschooling mother of three, as well as a slow food educator, and community leader.

I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1823.

- I deeply feel that our communities deserve to have these fortified rights - Many of the proposed clarifications would absolutely, truly help to protect our small businesses and farmsteads that operate under local food sovereignty ordinances!
- I also feel that it is especially important to include the food sovereignty principles. There is a genuine lack of understanding, especially from lawyers, who can see things only from very specific lenses.

From my town's experience, the state enforcement agents, and lawyers involved are utterly and totally confused. They say the MFSA's "intent is unclear."

DHHS has already harassed, and shut down one of our businesses operating under a LFSO - This business was not only providing a service to our community that we were lacking, they also supported the greater network of farmers, homesteaders and community members in our region.

I truly believe that future generations deserve to have unadulterated, guaranteed access to the wholesome, nourishing foods they choose for themselves and their families. Please vote ought to pass!

Slow Food International envisions a world in which all people can access and enjoy food that is good for them, good for those who grow it and good for the planet. The purpose of the "slow food movement" is to defend regional traditions, good food, gastronomic pleasure and a slower pace of life.

"It's imperative that we codify guaranteed rights to grow and access nutritious and culturally relevant food in every state and territory across the US. This is a clear path toward embracing food sovereignty, decolonizing our diets, increasing food access and nutritional security, and moving our nation one step closer to good, clean and fair food for all." - SLOW FOOD USA
Brian Solem, Director of Communications, Slow Food USA