

AGHALOMA FARMS

270 Shibles Road

Knox, Maine 04986

Harold, Joyce, Galen & Brady Larrabee

Wayne & Cheryl Carson

Mike & Cammie Curtis

(207) 568-3537 Fax (207) 568-4014

Family Owned Business Since 1955



February 7, 2024

The Honorable Committee Members
Of the Joint Standing Committee on Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry

Testimony for LD 2188

Dear Committee Members:

Good day!

I am Harold Larrabee, representing AGHALOMA FARMS, a large family dairy farm, fifth generation, milking 430 head of Holstein cattle.

We are from Knox Maine, located in Waldo County.

Our team is blended with employees and family, with a total workforce of 15 people.

We've been farming for 80+ years.

We're testifying in support of our MAINE DAIRY STABILIZATION "TIER" PROGRAM.

This Rural Economic TOOL that works well and is essential to the survival of all of Maine's Agriculture!

Thank you for your support of this program.

Thank you for recognizing the need for Maine's Dairy Industry to stay strong, for many reasons including wide open spaces and vacationland opportunities.

The Maine Dairy Industry is a backbone that provides the infrastructure necessary for other local and smaller agriculture to flourish.

It also represents thousands of jobs for Maine people and millions of dollars to Maine's economy.

Maine Dairy... is MAINE! With out it...it's just not going to BE Maine!

Our farm had a fire before Christmas and it stopped our ability to milk our cows.

If it wasn't for God's blessing, I have never seen so many good people come together so quickly to help us in such an urgent way!

Only God could work such a miracle that was carried out so smoothly through farmers from all over the state, who came together and trucked 430 cattle, trailer load after trailer load, to another farmer's facility... so we could get them milked and fed.

These are the good, hard working, community of people that will be lost, if Maine loses more farms and the Maine Dairy Industry!

Costs for all our expenses have gone up and our milk income has not.

We need you to consider the financial numbers that are being discussed today, that are the reason we are here today. They are real costs for farmers who have no way to offset them and can't increase production to meet them.

Dairy farmers have to buy retail but sell wholesale.

Thank you for your service on this committee to the people of Maine!

Aghaloma Farms. LLC

Harold & Joyce, Brady Larrabee

Wayne & Cheryl Carson

Micheal & Cammie Curtis

*In Memory of Galen D. Larrabee