



Testimony of Garrett Mason  
in Support of LD 2189

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, a Major Substantive  
Rule of the Maine Milk Commission

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. My name is Garrett Mason. I am a resident of Lisbon Falls and am a partner at Dirigo Public Affairs. I am here offering testimony on behalf of my client The Maine Farm Bureau.

The Maine Farm Bureau is proud to represent farmers and landowners from all over the state since 1951. Our organization advocates for agriculture, landowners and the rural way of life that Maine is so well known for and that is the biggest reason we are here to support this resolve today.

At the farm bureau, we frequently hear how important the rural way of life is to those who are from here or those who are seeking to build a new life in Maine from somewhere else. The character and nature of our rural places are kept together by our members and the industries that support them.

It is no secret that the dairy industry is important to Mainers. The ability to rely on local products made from farmers we know and trust is crucial to the health, wellness, culture, and economy of Maine. However, our farmers have been hit hard by the ever increasing cost of living and doing business. Take a quick read through the cost of production study and you'll quickly see that to be the case.

LD 2189 if implemented will give Maine's dairy industry the boost needed to ensure our dairy producers have a bright future. It will also ensure the economy that surrounds those producers is healthy, thriving, and ready to support both our farms and others in communities around the state.

We would ask the committee to vote ought to pass on this legislation. In doing so we will be able to preserve that ever important rural way of life that is the envy and pursuit of so many in and out of our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'm happy to answer questions that you may have and provide any answers for those that I don't have for work session.