

# Testimony

1 message

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To: David Bell <david.bell@cherryfieldfoods.com>

Hugh Drisko Orrington, Maine March 12, 2024

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The following is my testimony in support of LD 2256, An Act to Provide Emergency One-time Relief from the Wild Blueberry Tax for growers in Maine. I own and operate wild blueberry farms and manage wild blueberries in the towns of Columbia and Columbia Falls as well as Township 19MD.

My family has been in the business for approximately 65 years and has witnessed many industry wide fluctuations in market conditions. Currently the combination of low market conditions and rapidly increasing input costs is stressing many growers. It would appear that many small and medium sized growers will go out of business. Obviously this will have a negative effect on Eastern Maine and Washington County in particular.

I wish to thank the committee for their consideration and support a positive vote to pass LD 2256.