



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST LD 113

An Act to Require Food Labels to Disclose Use of Messenger Ribonucleic Acid Vaccine Material in Food Production

February 6, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Celeste Poulin. I am the Division Director of Quality Assurance and Regulation (QAR) within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. I am speaking on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) Neither For Nor Against LD 113, *An Act to Require Food Labels to Disclose Use of Messenger Ribonucleic Acid Vaccine Material in Food Production*.

The Division of QAR is responsible for implementing state and Federal food safety laws. We enforce food sanitation standards and ensure compliance with both the Maine Food Code and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Our mission is to ensure that all food products sold in Maine are safe and properly labeled.

DACF feels that this bill is premature. Messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccines are not currently approved for use in commercial livestock production. If any mRNA vaccines were to be approved for use in the future, they would need to be proven to not pose a health risk to humans, and a safe withdrawal period would need to be established by the USDA and FDA, as is the case with other types of vaccines.

The application of mRNA vaccines and their link to food safety requires further study, and to date, the available body of research isn't sufficient to guide a decision on whether the impact of mRNA vaccines would be different than other types of vaccines. More scientific data is needed to guide the discussion as to whether any possible future applications should warrant any specific product labeling.

We appreciate your consideration and would be happy to answer any questions that we can.

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