



April 23, 2025

To: Senator Nicole Grohoski, Chair  
Representative Kristen Cloutier, Chair  
Distinguished Members of The Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

From: Jasper Wyman & Son Inc. ("Wyman's")

Wyman's supports LD1386 An Act to Provide Emergency One-time Relief from the Wild Blueberry Tax for Sellers in Maine.

As a Maine based family-owned business that is now more than 150 years old, we view our role in supporting the long-term sustainability of this industry as a critical responsibility.

We are supportive of the Wild Blueberry Commission's mission to conserve and promote the prosperity and welfare of the wild blueberry industry of this state, and we dedicate significant time and energy across a range of individuals in our company to actively participate in these efforts.

The Wild Blueberry Commission is currently challenged as its composition is not representative of the broader interests of the industry, which is comprised primarily of those participating in the IQF conventional wild blueberry market. In part as a result of this, and despite earnest efforts by those involved, at this time our industry lacks alignment for how to effectively deploy funds to promote our product through marketing channels.

Furthermore, budget reserves for the Wild Blueberry Commission and the Wild Blueberry Association of North America (which is funded by the Commission) are robust at this time. Essentially, budget funds are already in place, but strategic alignment for how to effectively and efficiently utilize those funds is not.

This dynamic is occurring at a time when our industry is struggling in a particularly acute way as a result of high crop input costs (such as fertilization and pollination), low prices, and a very significant run up in interest rates in recent years. Many are struggling to make ends meet, and the vast majority lack funding to invest in opportunities with proven ROI's like land leveling, irrigation, de-rocking, advanced harvesting equipment and more.

It makes no sense to tax a struggling industry to generate promotional funding when a defined and aligned strategy for use of those tax funds does not exist, when existing reserves are in place, and when alternative investments with proven returns are being cut as a result. A one-year hiatus on the grower portion of this tax will provide much needed relief with no measurable downside.

We urge this committee to vote this bill out of committee ought to pass. Thank you for your time.

Tony Shurman, President & CEO