



James Libby, Ph.D.  
Senator, District 22

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony of Senator James D. Libby  
Sponsor of L.D. 1858, "An Act to Promote Local Seafood in Schools"  
Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**

Public Hearing: Thursday, May 8, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Jim Libby, and I am a State Senator representing Senate District # 22, comprised of the towns of Naples, Sebago, Baldwin, and Standish in Cumberland County; Hiram and Porter in Oxford County; and, Limington, Limerick, Cornish, Parsonsfield, Newfield, Acton, and Shapleigh, in the County of York.

It is my honor to Joint Senate President Daughtry to bring to your attention the contents of L.D. 1858, "An Act to Promote Local Seafood in Schools."

Maine's current quality of food served in schools has increased immensely over the years. This bill is an attempt to create a "win-win" for Maine. The bill establishes the "Local Seafood Fund" to be used to match \$1 for every \$3 a school administrative unit pays for seafood purchased directly from a person who fishes commercially, a cooperative of persons who fish commercially, an aquaculture farmer, an aquaculture farmer's cooperative, a local food hub, a local food processor or a food service distributor in the State.

Not once in my high school years did we ever serve anything but frozen fish patties, and I am really not sure where those came from. Nor do I really want to know.

The movement to fresh food in schools is excellent. Now we have a chance to up our game. I hope that you will join me in supporting this legislation.

Thank you.