

LD 2026

January 7, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and distinguished members of the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee. My name is Darlene Newcombe, I am the Superintendent and a Trustee of Windsor Fair.

Today I am here to testify in favor of LD 2026. As one of Maine's larger fairs we take in over 1500 items into the exhibition hall. The work to accomplish this takes many hands and many hours. The crew at the exhibition Hall starts on the Monday before the fair setting up and organizes to receive items to be exhibited. We work 10 hour days on Tuesday and Wednesday helping the public fill out paperwork for their items proceeded by processing and entering into the computer system. Thursday has always been about a 10-hour day working with the judges to be sure everything was examined and ribboned. Friday has in the past been used for decorating and displaying items for the public viewing. As you can see when you have these many items it is a long process to accomplish.

If we were to judge during the fair, we would have to close our doors during the first day and at least half of the second day to accomplish all that we need to do. Our fairgoers would be upset if they were not able to enter the hall on the opening day of the fair. If we were to judge, decorate and display items while the exhibition hall doors are open, we would need to be concerned about the safety of our fairgoers and the safety of the items to be exhibited. This would not lend for a good experience for our fairgoers and volunteers.

Also, we are trying to work in several contests and activities during the week. We have several demonstrators, such as rug hookers, spinners, felters, oyster farms, bakers, and general crafters that come in to talk with fairgoers regarding their crafts. Judging during fair hours would cut back on the time available to bring these talented people to the public.

As you can see our 10 days are consumed with many activities while also trying to keep a clean, organized and safe environment for the public.

The ability to judge and receive stipend dollars before our fair opens would be a real help to Windsor Fair.

Thank you for your time. I will make myself available for the work session.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Newcombe
Trustee and Exhibition Hall Superintendent, Windsor Fair
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