



January 7, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and distinguished members of the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee. My name is Barry W. Norris, and I'm the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Agriculture Fairs, which represents the 25 licensed agricultural fairs in the State of Maine.

First, I would like to thank Representative Pluecker for presenting LD 2026. I am here today to speak in favor of LD 2026 on behalf of all of our agricultural fairs. In 2025 DACF determined that Exhibition Hall entries were required to judge all of their entries on a licensed fair date, not the day before as had been done in the past. Fairs did the best they could and complied with the directive, which caused much stress for the many volunteers that person these halls.

We have three representatives here afternoon that can better explain the need for the bill.

I have been advised that the Committee may be receiving LD 2096 which also has a request for the twenty-four (24) allowance. I would ask the committee to consider keeping this bill on track. Should for some reason LD 2096 fail to become law, the fairs would be back in the position they were last year. Thank you for your time today, and I'll make myself available at the work session

Barry W. Norris

Executive Director, Maine Association of Agriculture Fairs

barrywnorrismainefairs@gmail.com

1-207-462-0857