

20 January 2026

## **132nd Maine Legislature's Committee On Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

LD 2094: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support Maine's Agricultural and Forestry Sectors

Chair Rotundo, Chair Gattine and esteemed members of of the Committee on Appropriation and Financial Affairs,

My name is Jenni Tilton-Flood and I am an owner and manger at Flood Brothers, LLC, a family dairy farm in Clinton, also known as Maine's Dairy Capital. Our multigenerational farm is currently operated and owned by 4 generations of our family comprised of 17 family members and 6 households. Our operation is home to 4,200 cows. Along with the skills and expertise of 44 team members 2,200 of our herd are milked everyday, producing 18,000 gallons of milk each and every day which finds it way onto our neighbours' tables within 24-48 hours after leaving the farm. We steward thousands of acres of land, both owned and rented, in three counties including the original farm, which has been in the family for over two centuries, along the banks of the Kennebec. As a part of Maine agriculture our farm is an integral component of the food system providing fresh, high quality food and sustainable nutrition and an economic impact for our State. Our farm, and the greater Agricultural and Forestry sector truly affects the triple bottom line of sustainability here in Maine: community, environment and economy. Because of all of this it is important to our business, the food system, and my family that Maine's workforce, people and economy are supported and invested in. LD 2094 is the support and investment Maine needs and I am here today to urge you to support this bill with your vote.

LD 2094 will provide the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund, Working Farmland Access and Protection Program, Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program, Maine Healthy Soils Program, and Dairy Improvement Fund with funding to invest, on behalf of the people of Maine, in the people and businesses who keep Maine nourished, sheltered, and clothed and in turn that investment will protect our lands and waterways, bolster and sustain our peoples, and allow Ag and Forestry to continue as the engines of our economies, building a better Maine for all.

As a dairy farmer I could talk about the specific programs that are important to my family farm and business but I am not here for that. I am here to speak to the importance of an investment in all of Maine's ag and forestry through this bond, and the opportunity it provides for Maine. We talk all the time about dairy being the foundation of our economies and food system, but a foundation is no good without support and chinking...and forestry, non dairy agriculture,

the stakeholders and service providers, and infrastructure that all combine to make Maine a place open for business and the way life should be is truly what supports me and my family farm. This bond, should the people of Maine approve, would help secure and improve the infrastructure and moving parts that my farm depends upon. Businesses like Phoenix Feeds, who are crucial to not just my herd but so many farms throughout the state, and other businesses need to have access to funding opportunities and incentives to be able to make infrastructure improvements in order to continue to sustain and grow our system. Our farm alone does business with more than 250 vendors, the majority of whom are locally owned and/or staffed. Every single business and farm in Maine can speak to a lengthy list of local economic activity, regardless of sector or size. This proposed investment in the form of a Bond by the people of Maine in ag and forestry is an investment that will show up on Main Streets, in wallets and pockets and accounts throughout Maine as well as on the tables and in the tummies of Mainers. Maine's farm and food businesses and forestry sector have made an agreement with the people and State of Maine to steward the land, nourish our communities and keep our economy infused with activity. We are working hard to keep up our end of the agreement and continue our investment in Maine and this ask is about Maine further investing in us. In return we can build up, fortify, and expand not just our current system but for a future of a more secure, more resilient and more productive Maine. This investment would help to unleash the potential and promise of our agricultural and forestry sector to provide for Maine in better ways, in the best ways...for the best of Maine.

I strongly urge you to vote OTP on LD 2094 and put this bond in front of the voters of Maine. I also thank you for serving as citizens legislators and welcome any questions you may have for me about our farm, our food system and the potential I know to be true for Maine agriculture.

With Gratitude,  
Jenni Tilton-Flood  
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