

LD 2096

January 27, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Plueker and distinguished members of the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee.

My name is Jeff Chadbourne. I am 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice -President of the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs and here today representing the Harmony Free Fair where I have been President for the past 23 years.

I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 2096, Specifically Section 1., Lines 11-26 and Section 5. Changing the definition of Agricultural Fair will hurt small fairs in Maine.

The town of Harmony used to have two or three working dairy farms on every road, there are now none. What we do have are a lot of small hobby farms who come to the Harmony Fair for our educational opportunities and demonstrations. While we do have some agricultural competitions, we do not have the resources or local farms to comply with LD 2096 as written.

I sat in the MAAF booth 2 weeks ago at the Agricultural trade convention passing out information about Maine fair dates. I asked a lot of people what their favorite fair was some said a few bigger fairs by name but about a third said "I like the small fairs" Please don't take their small fairs away from them by passing LD-2096 as written.

We do not need to have our fairs redefined; no one knows our fairs better than the local community volunteers that work at our fair.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Chadbourne".

Jeff Chadbourne , President Harmony Free Fair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President MAAF

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