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I am writing in support of the proposed LD 437 - "An Act to Establish the Maine Healthy Soils Program." I live in Southern Aroostook and through my work, have partnered with farmers over the past several years on implementing various soil health practices. The common refrain is that farmers know they need to build soil health to have viable land to pass on to the next generation but many times the knowledge of where to begin can be overwhelming. Establishing LD 437 would show that the State of Maine prioritizes the importance of soil health and provide the needed resources to help farmers make management changes for long-term benefits. We have seen the benefits of soil building through plant vigor and quality. Enough research has also now been done to provide numbers to the benefits. This bill would be a strong first step for Maine to show support for prioritizing soil health within our agricultural community.