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Food sovereignty bills like this have (in the past) created unintended consequences for inspected meat operations in the state in the form of closures of slaughterhouses due to the holding up of federal funding to support Maine's meat inspection program. Unfortunately, impacts like this severely disrupt both livestock production and processing. If this bill moves forward I would strongly encourage the legislature to confer with the DACF to fully understand the impacts.

I do not support this new bill because of that AND because, as a livestock producer, we already have ample ways to provide food to customers under the current exemptions - particularly for poultry.

While less regulation may help producers in the short-run, it will make it more challenging to those same producers to scale up when they are limited by what their insurer will or will not permit them to do anyway.

This bill creates less clarity for consumers in a time when many are seeking more connection to local foods.