



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
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February 8, 2023

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

LD 220, *An Act to Support Maine's Potato Farmers and Processors*, is a concept draft that does not provide sufficient information for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) to take a position on the bill before us today.

Should the intent of this bill be to mirror that of LD 150, *An Act to Allow Incentive Continuity Following a Catastrophic Occurrence Under the Pine Tree Development Zone and Major Food Processing and Manufacturing Facility Expansion Tax Credit Programs* referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, we can express our support for that bill and its intent to ensure that companies participating in the Pine Tree Development Zone program are not punished in the event of a disaster. We, too, would favor changes that allowed for a baseline employment adjustment in the event of a catastrophic occurrence.

In short, the Department recognizes the immense economic and social importance of potato growers and the potato industry. We look forward to offering more feedback on LD 220 once details emerge.

Sincerely,

Craig Lapine, Director

Maine Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources

[www.maine.gov/dacf/ag/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/ag/index.shtml)

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