

Jan goranson
Dresden
LD 568

2/27/23

Hello,

I am writing in support of the continued level of funding for LD568. We have farmed in Dresden for over 60 years. For decades our farm has participated in the food stamp, now known as SNAP, program.

Through the years we have increased our farm's income viability by selling at area Farmer Markets. With the SNAP & Maine Harvest Bucks programs, we have been able to expand affordable food access to our community at the farmer's markets in Damariscotta, Bath, Brunswick, and Portland.

We witness the good, nutritious food people are buying year round with the SNAP/Maine Harvest Bucks benefits at our farmstand and farmers market . With help from MOFGA, some will use their bonus bucks to participate in our Community Supported Agriculture program. This money spent, you can be certain, is for the better nutrition of those in need or who might not be able to afford farm fresh produce. We develop close relationships with all our customers and know, when they may fall ill, they are doing the best they can by eating well. We praise young parents and kids who shop and buy fresh veggie snacks with their bonus bucks.

We donate about 20,000 pounds a year to local foodbanks and soup kitchens. But having the Maine Harvest Bucks incentive programs translates into income for our farm and gives our community a greater choice of higher quality and diversity of food. Most importantly, this money goes directly to a community of hard working farmers and to people who are food insecure. This is a win win funding need.

Thank you for your time!,

Jan Goranson
Goranson Farm
Dresden, Maine