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LD 1823

I am writing to express my opposition to LD 1823, An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food. I'm unclear about what sections of this bill are supposed to actually achieve (e.g. why is there a section affirming that people have the right to cultivate vegetable gardens on their own property...are personal vegetable gardens on one's own property outlawed somewhere in the state?) and very concerned about the effect other sections would have. The section on "traditional foodways" is particularly disturbing because of the definition used in the bill: "'Traditional foodways' includes...hunting, gathering, fishing...[and] uses of food products other than for eating." The fact that "hunting" and "uses of food products other than for eating" ("food products" includes meat, poultry, and fish...aka animals) are included in "traditional foodways" could allow animal welfare and hunting laws to be challenged or outright ignored if people have a right to food sovereignty. The law banning Sunday hunting could be challenged (even more than it already is by the hunting/gun lobby). Environmental protection laws could be subverted as well because of how people use land to produce food.

While it's true that issues like food insecurity need to be addressed, both in the state and nationwide, bills like this do nothing to provide any meaningful solution. Instead, they would weaken laws impacting animals and the environment. Please oppose LD 1823!