

Lorelei Cimeno
Orland
LD 2093

Good afternoon members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry.

My name is Lorelei Cimeno. I am a full-time, first-generation farmer in Orland, ME. I am also a board member of the Maine Federation of Farmers market (MFFM) and the market manager at the Blue Hill Farmers Market. With the help of community partners like MFFM, the Blue Hill Farmers' Market was able to bring an info booth to implement Maine Harvest Bucks in 2021. Our info booth has been reaching more families every year. Fellow farmers have also been able to scale up their businesses because of the extra dollars the info booth brings to the market. My fear is that in a couple of years when the state funding is set to end for Maine Harvest Bucks, the burden of fundraising for the markets will fall on market managers like me. I am way too busy to fundraise for these programs adequately. And the farms that are building their businesses on the income from Maine Harvest Bucks will suffer. I urge you to support LD 2093 to help overworked Maine farmers, and SNAP shoppers alike.