

Gillian Cridler
Portland
LD 2093

Dear Legislators,


My name is Gillian Cridler, and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing as an advocate for local food and equitable food access to express my support for LD 2093 - An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

Last year, I was a FoodCorps service member with Cultivating Community in Portland and spent time in cafeterias promoting local foods in school meals and supporting initiatives to include culturally important meals on school menus. My service last year was buoyed by the School Meals for All law that Governor Mills signed in 2021. Equitable access to school meals is having a measurable impact in our state. Likewise, support for the bill before you today will also help address food security while having ripple effects in the local economy.

I am about to start a new position as Program Coordinator at MaineHealth's Portland food pantry. The people I will interact with are among the low income population in Maine who utilize nutrition incentive programs and will benefit greatly from the robust and continuous funding LD2093 will provide. Everyone deserves access to local and nourishing food. Increased, reliable state funding will help strengthen the health and wellbeing of Maine's population while simultaneously supporting local agriculture in our state.

I ask that you please support Senator Ingwersen's bill to provide robust, permanent support for Maine's nutrition incentive programs and farmers in Maine.

Sincerely,

 Gillian Cridler

Cultivating Community Board Member
MaineHealth Portland Food Pantry