

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland
LD 2093

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and esteemed members of the
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry committee

I am writing in support of LD 2093, an Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping
Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food.

As you know, Maine has the highest rates of hunger in New England; 10% of our
households face food insecurity, and that rate is much higher among our New
Mainers. LD 2093 would provide \$1.2 million in permanent state funding to support
SNAP/EBT shoppers using their benefits for local food.

This bill makes fresh, local food at farmers' markets affordable for more people and
supplements more than 10,000 households' grocery budgets with healthy
Maine-grown food. As a volunteer with an organization which serves asylum seekers
from Africa, I know how very important it is to have the opportunity to purchase food
which is appropriate for your family. Depending on handouts or food from food
pantries which may or may not meet your needs is frustrating and can be
dehumanizing. Please give our residents who are food insecure, both new residents
and those who have been here for generations, an opportunity to access healthy,
nutritional food for their families.

I urge you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 2093.

Ann Dodd-Collins
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