

Ben Whatley  
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LD 2093

I support funding Maine Harvest Bucks continuously at \$1.2 million year through LD2960. I am a vegetable farmer in Topsham who sells year-round at farmers markets, and have served SNAP/EBT customers since 2014. I know what a difference the Maine Harvest Bucks incentive makes for my customers, and can say that people buy fewer fresh fruits and vegetables from us when the incentive is reduced (as it has been the last couple of years at 50% instead the 100% it was for several years before that). At the Brunswick Farmers Market, where I volunteer as the secretary and coordinator for our SNAP program, we have seen a reduction in sales since Maine Harvest Bucks funding decreased, and we think that robust, annual funding through state government could give the farmers a boost, as well as helping out SNAP recipients and their families.