Pete Kennedy
WAPF
LD 124

My name is Pete Kennedy. I am a consultant who works on state food policy and legislation for the Weston A. Price Foundation (WAPF, westonaprice.org), a nonprofit with members in all 50 states (including Maine) whose mission is to restore nutrient-dense food to the American diet through research, education and activism. I worked in support of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act and the Maine Right to Food constitutional amendment and I'm respectfully asking members of the committee to vote YES on Legislative Drawer 124 And (LD 124), an Act to Protect the Right to Food.

With skyrocketing inflation in food prices and the new administration's policies on tariffs, food security and self-sufficiency in food production at a local and state level is more important than ever. Passage of LD 124 will better enable producers in ordinance towns to operate without interference and earn more revenue in providing nutritious food to their communities.

Passage would better enable Maine residents to access the foods of their choice from the source of their choice. Producers operating under local ordinances and the Maine Food Sovereignty Act have a great track record for food safety with few, if any, cases of foodborne illness attributed to those producers.

Thousands of Maine residents are food insecure; the Maine Vegetable Garden Protection Act ensures the right to grow their own produce and gives them the possibility of leasing land from the government to grow their own fruits and vegetables and raise their own livestock.

Passage of LD 124 should result in a corresponding decline in demand for services from the state healthcare system.

I urged the committee to further strengthen Maine's commitment to food security and self-sufficiency in food production by voting to pass LB 124.

Thank you.