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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1429

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT THE MOST TIME-SENSITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I am Victoria Wallack, Communications and Government Relations Director for Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 1429.

Our opposition is around §213-A of the bill, which covers school food purchases.

It mandates how much must be spent with Maine food producers on food served at school.

While we support and have supported local foods in schools, districts are in very different positions right now in terms of what percentage they spend locally. The two considerations are cost and availability.

We will be happy to work with Maine Department of Education Nutrition Director, Walter Beesley, to determine what is feasible and promote what already is going on in schools with local foods.

We also can do a quick survey for the work session to give the committee more information on what is happening today.