

NICOLAS LINDHOLM
PENOBSCOT
LD 1483

I am an organic wild blueberry farmer, certified by MOFGA since 1996, with a seasonal full-time crew of 12-16 people that harvest and process 25,000-35,000 lbs. of fresh-pack and frozen berries. My wife and I own and lease seven wild blueberry fields across five towns in the Blue Hill area, and sell much of our crop direct-to-consumer from our farm, with the balance being sold to Merrill's freezer in Hancock. We are also now constructing a new wild blueberry processing/freezing facility in North Penobscot, where we will be expanding our business to process and market berries from other organic growers across the state, adding more year-round employment opportunities in our community. We support LD 1483, as it is a basic proposal for human rights and self determination. No worker, particularly those engaged in producing our nation's food, whether full-time, part-time, seasonal or temporary, should be blocked from accessing basic services for their health and well-being. We support efforts to create a level playing field where agricultural employment is held and seen in the same legal, social, cultural and economic standards as all other employment opportunities in our state. Thank you.