



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

Senator Millett, Representative Kornfield, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Jeanne Reilly. I am a resident of Kennebunk, Maine and the School Nutrition Director for RSU #14, the Windham & Raymond School Department. I am also the legislative chair for Maine School Nutrition Association. I am writing this letter in support of LD 454, "An Act to Encourage the Purchase of Local Produce for Public Schools".

Maine Schools are committed to serving fresh, healthy and delicious food to school children across Maine. Many schools already have school gardens and are regularly growing food that is served in the cafeteria, and already have a strong commitment to serving local foods, within our limited budget.

Maine School Nutrition Association is committed to supporting local food in the school cafeteria and we are proud of Maine's agricultural heritage. It gives us pride when local Maine schools serve locally grown potatoes, blueberries, apples, tomatoes and more. We also know that when we serve local produce, we are supporting the local economy and keeping our dollars in our community and in our state. Students are enthused and engaged when eating food that is grown in their local community.... From a crisp juicy Maine apple to a roasted red potato that is creamy & delicious inside to sweet & fun delicata squash smiles. When families know that we are purchasing locally grown food, they are more likely to support the school nutrition program and more likely to also purchase locally grown produce at their local market.

Maine School Nutrition Association fully supports LD 454. We believe that not only will this bill support school nutrition programs and put more local produce in the school meals program, but this bill also supports the local economy.

The Local Produce Fund was established in 2015, but has never been fully funded...this bill is in the budget. We believe that this bill should pass. It is good for students, good for local economy, good for farmers and good for Maine.

We urge you to support & pass this bill.

Thank you,

Jeanne Reilly
Director of School Nutrition

Legislative Chair
Maine School Nutrition Association