

Maine Farmers for Safe Local Food

We need
everyone to:

Call the members of the ACF Committee, the Governor, and your own state representative and senator ASAP.

Come testify at the hearing on Friday, October 20th in Augusta and let the ACF Committee know that Maine Agriculture stands behind safe food for all!

The message
to legislators
is:

- Time is short.
- Keep the bill simple.
- Support the USDA-approved 1-sentence fix!

*** Legislative Alert ***

Contact your Legislators IMMEDIATELY

Tell them to support the 1-Sentence Fix that was approved by USDA to save the Maine Meat Program!

"An ordinance shall not apply to any food products that are required to comply with any federal agency's regulatory jurisdiction including, but not limited to meat & poultry, dairy products regulated by the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, fish & seafood, cider or juice, low acid canned foods or acidified foods."

Background:

In June 2017, the Maine Legislature passed LD 725, a bill that gave Maine towns and cities the right by local ordinance to allow food and food products produced and sold in that town to be exempt from any state or federal regulation or inspection. 20 Maine towns have passed these ordinances.

This exemption included, but is not limited to, meat & poultry, milk & dairy products, processed or canned foods, juice, eggs, fish, and seafood.

The law was signed by the Governor and will go into effect November 1, 2017.

Many foods produced in Maine must follow federal food safety rules set by USDA, the FDA, and others. USDA has already announced that passage of this law will shut down the Maine Meat Inspection Program that regulates and inspects smaller scale slaughterhouses across Maine. For livestock and poultry producers, this will force them to close their doors, leaving many small farms without the ability to process their livestock. This eliminates a crucial part of our agriculture infrastructure AND a serious blow to Maine rural agricultural economy.

We are all at risk of heightened federal interest and the efforts we've put in place in Maine to offer scale-appropriate oversight could be in jeopardy!

To protect our state industries, the Governor has called an emergency legislative session for Monday, October 23. His office worked with supporters of food sovereignty (freedom from regulation/inspection at the municipal level) to craft LD 1648, a bill that narrowly protect the Maine Meat Inspection Program, while leaving the local control option in place and adding several definitions and new policy objectives to the food sovereignty law. **The bill adds new, non-emergency policy language and still leaves many gaps and holes in the food safety net, creating problems for many dairy, produce and seafood producers!**

(The text of LD 1648 can be found at <http://legislature.maine.gov/>

Enter "1648" in the LD # and it will bring up info about the bill.)

The public hearing is Friday, October 20th at 9:30am in Room 214 of the Cross Office Building in Augusta.

All State Legislators will be in Augusta on Monday, October 23rd to vote on this issue!

Call Today for Safe Local Food!

Members of the Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee, 128th Maine Legislature

Senator	Paul Davis	(R)	Sangerville	Senate District #4	Chair	876-4047	343-0258
Senator	Jim Dill	(D)	Old Town	Senate District #5		827-3498	
Senator	Tom Saviello	(R)	Wilton	Senate District #17		645-3420	
Representative	Michelle Dunphy	(D)	Old Town	House District #122	Chair	827-8989	745-3088
Representative	Kent Ackley	(D)	Monmouth	House District #82			512-2524
Representative	Russell Black	(R)	Wilton	House District #114			491-4667
Representative	Ralph Chapman	(D)	Brooksville	House District #133		326-0899	
Representative	Norman Higgins	(R)	Dover-Foxcroft	House District #120		564-8214	
Representative	MaryAnn Kinney	(R)	Knox	House District #99		568-7577	
Representative	Danny Martin	(D)	Sinclair	House District #150		543-6135	231-1358
Representative	Carol McElwee	(R)	Caribou	House District #149		498-8605	
Representative	Margaret O'Neil	(D)	Saco	House District #15			590-1679
Representative	Thomas Skolfield	(R)	Weld	House District #112		585-2638	

Governor Paul LePage 287-3531

To find out who represents your town and county, go to the following webpage and get the names of your State Senator and Representative and their phone numbers.

<http://legislature.maine.gov/house/townlist.htm>

Please call right now!