



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Jennifer Poirier supporting

LD 95 “Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Food”

Before the Joint Standing Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Senator Dill, Representative O’Neil and Distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

My name is Rep. Jennifer Poirier and I am very proud to cosponsor LD 95 “Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Food”. Every person in Maine should have the right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the foods that they choose.

A Right to Food should be Constitutional and not left to be decided by city or local ordinance. This resolution will provide Maine families with a guaranteed opportunity to provide fresh foods and produce to their families. A Right to Food should extend to allow one neighbor to sell their abundant supply of vegetables and other grown goods to others.

The nutritional value of fresh, home grown foods is proven superb over market foods. The lessons that can be taught through growing one’s own food can be invaluable. I enjoy the days of counting the ripe tomatoes that I pick off the vines. I also love going to the farm stand run by Alex, a grade school student in my district. He took over the stand when his elder neighbor could no longer do it. Alex picks vegetables and operates the stand after school and on weekends in the fall. He has learned about hard work, the value of money and the importance of good, wholesome food.

I urge you all to support this resolution. No person in Maine should be told that they cannot grown their own food. Let us keep Maine the way it should be and Establish a Right to Food.

Thank you for your consideration.