



# Save Tax Dollars, Address Hunger, and Reduce Waste

LD 1534, the Food Recovery Bill, supports farmers, schools, and municipalities

*We all have a stake in making sure Maine kids don't go hungry  
and that our farmers' food isn't wasted*

## Maine has the nation's third highest rate of hunger, yet nearly half of our food is wasted

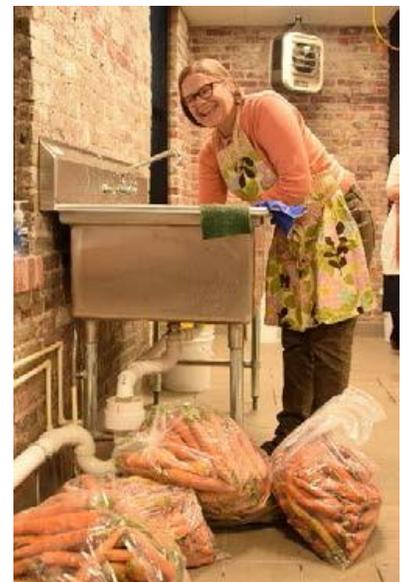
- Food wasted in public schools may cost taxpayers more than food wasted in other settings because it is sometimes paid for twice – in the school budget and in the local solid waste budget.
- Wasted food makes up the single largest and most expensive component, by weight, of municipal and school solid waste.
- One in four Maine children does not get enough to eat on a regular basis. This results in learning and behavior problems in schools.
- Fifteen percent of Maine senior citizens are food insecure.
- Maine schools, businesses, farmers, and towns are looking for solutions, but current state policy does not go far enough to help them save money on food waste reduction, or redirect edible food to those who could use it.



## The Legislature can help Maine schools, taxpayers, and municipalities save money while addressing hunger and boosting educational, business, and market opportunities

### LD 1534 will:

- strengthen liability protections for farmers and businesses that donate or discount food that would otherwise be wasted;
- provide a tax credit to Maine farmers who donate food that would otherwise be wasted;
- help each Maine public school establish a food waste reduction program if it would save the school money; and
- direct the Maine DEP and other relevant state agencies to help schools with food waste reduction and recovery efforts.



## Support LD 1534: Reduce Food Waste in Maine

For more information, please contact Ryan Parker, Natural Resources Council of Maine, (207) 430-0144 or [rparker@nrcm.org](mailto:rparker@nrcm.org)



## Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

***We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive***

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	MidCoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	