**The Maine Heritage Policy Center**

**Testimony to Support LD 1889**

**“An Act To Protect the Products of Maine Farmers”**

Senator Dill, Representative Hickman and distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Adam Crepeau. I serve as a policy analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1889.

The Maine Heritage Policy Center commends Rep. Cuddy for introducing LD 1889 to this committee. As I’m sure you’re all aware, a Maine farmer nearly lost 100 pounds of bacon after a third party processor mislabeled his product.[[1]](#footnote-0) Initially, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry was going to bleach everything that was mislabeled, even after pleas that the farmer would only use it for personal consumption. Thankfully, the Department and the farmer were able to work out an arrangement, but it is a shame he had to go through this process in the first place. Quite frankly, it was bureaucracy at its worst.

This legislation would direct the Department to establish rules for returning inspected meat, meat products, poultry and poultry products to the livestock producer if it is found to be misbranded. To be clear, this is meat and poultry that is still safe to consume but cannot be sold because an error occurred when it was labeled. The owner should be able to keep the meat and poultry for personal consumption if they choose.

Further, this issue underscores the need for Maine’s executive branch departments to review their rules and regulations and eliminate those that create a burden for Mainers. While this bill will likely solve the niche problem at hand, there needs to be a greater effort within state government to free Mainers from the bureaucracy that currently exists, whether it’s occupational licensing reform or eliminating unnecessary regulations that constrain Maine businesses.

For those reasons, The Maine Heritage Policy Center wholeheartedly supports this bill and encourages the committee to vote, “Ought to Pass.” Thank you.

1. <https://bangordailynews.com/2019/08/07/news/midcoast/a-paperwork-error-almost-cost-this-maine-farmer-his-bacon-now-his-pork-is-back-on-the-menu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)