

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Land for Maine's Future
22 SHS, 19 Elkins Lane
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022



Dear Land for Maine's Future Board Members,

On behalf of the **Casco Open Space Commission**, we write to express our support for the protection of **Hancock Family Farm (HFF)** in Casco, Maine. We support an agricultural conservation easement held by Maine Farmland Trust, partially funded by the *Land for Maine's Future Working Farmland Access Protection* program.

Hancock Family Farm provides organic, affordable, and plentiful produce for residents of Casco and surrounding towns. They also hosts a weekly CSA membership each year. A CSA Membership program is a partnership between the farmers and the community where members invest in the farm, then come to pick up their share of food and flowers each week.

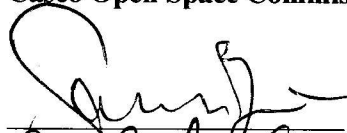
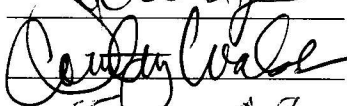
HFF serves as a community hub where neighbors frequently cross paths. It enhances and strengthens our scenic views along Quaker Ridge Road and adds immense value to the continuity of its precious open space.

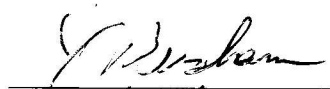
The underlying characteristics of the land of Hancock Family Farm make it suitable for running a farm business. **It is important that this property be conserved in perpetuity for agricultural use so that regardless of future ownership, HFF will always be operated as a farm.** The value of HFF to the community has always been greater than the sum of its parts – *and we long for this to continue.*

Hancock Family Farm will fit nicely into the surrounding network of conserved land, much of which is stewarded by our neighbors at **Loon Echo Land Trust**. The farm lies just across Poland Spring Road from another conserved farm, and a quarter mile from **Hacker's Hill Preserve**, a jewel of community enhancement. We look forward to seeing Hancock Family Farm's local significance recognized by its permanent conservation.

Sincerely,

Casco Open Space Commissioners:

 Sam Brown, Chair
 Courtney Walsh
 Eric Dibner

 Jim Arsham
 Mike Bolk