

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
54 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0054

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

Jeanne S. Paquette
COMMISSIONER

January 12, 2017

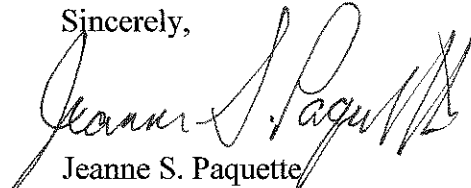
The Honorable Amy F. Volk, Senate Chair
The Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic
Development
128th Maine Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Senator Volk, Representative Fecteau and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development:

Pursuant to 26 MRSA, c. 16, §2, the Department of Labor (the 'Department') was tasked with
reviewing the status of labor relations in the State between agricultural employees and
agricultural employers who operate egg processing facilities that have over 500,000 laying birds
and employ more than 100 agricultural employees. The Department was asked to assess the
impact of law changes contained in the original Agricultural Employees Labor Relations Act. If
needed, the Department could develop recommendations necessary to promote agreements
between agricultural employers and agricultural employees to limit industrial strife, promote
stability in the farm labor force and improve the economic status of workers and businesses.

Since 2012, the Department has not received any formal complaints from agricultural employees
alleging strife within the industry that would require further legislative action. It is the
Department's recommendation that no new legislation be submitted. The Department will
continue to assist the industry with employment services through our Bureau of Employment
Services and also compliance assistance with labor law enforcement through our Bureau of
Labor Standards, should the need arise.

Sincerely,



Jeanne S. Paquette
Commissioner