

Farming Is Fundamental

December 17, 2021

If you live in Maine, you may now grow your own food. The right to do so has been safeguarded in the state constitution.

If you have the right to life and to sustain your life, surely you have a right to farm. As we all know, though, governments regularly find excuses to interfere with all kinds of peaceful activities.

So this past November, Maine voters passed a constitutional amendment authored by Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham (whose energetic campaigns

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for freedom have previously caught Common Sense notice) and proposed by the legislature.

Maine's Right to Food Amendment makes clear that "All individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable . . . right to save and exchange seeds and the right to grow, raise, harvest, produce



and consume . . . as long as an individual does not commit trespassing, theft, poaching or other abuses of private property rights public lands or natural resources in the harvesting, production or acquisition of food." (So there's no California-style *de facto* "right" to loot.)

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Don't we *want* the new law to ban governments in Maine from banning agriculture for the sake of "esthetics," protecting Big Milk, or any other rationalization for foiling farming on a person's own property?

And for the idea to spread to the other states, where far too often the scales of justice don't properly consider the citizen's right to produce food against the bureaucrat's regulations frustrating same.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.