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WINTHROP, MAINE - Right to Food for Maine is pleased to announce the release of a legal analysis from the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Miami School of Law making clear that the Right to Food constitutional amendment is not in conflict with animal welfare laws or Home Rule Authority. The analysis reads in part:

The proposed Amendment enumerates and protects three sets of rights and then limits those rights. The three rights are (1) the right to food, (2) the right to save and exchange seeds, and (3) the right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of [an individual's] own choosing[.] The Amendment does not protect these rights where it would require “trespassing, theft, poaching or other abuses of private property rights, public lands or natural resources in the harvesting, production or acquisition of food...”

In construing a constitutional amendment, Maine courts interpret the words “in light of what meaning they would convey to an ‘intelligent, careful voter.’” *Payne v. Sec’y of State*, 237 A.3d 870 (Me. 2020). An intelligent, careful voter would not take the rights to save and exchange seeds and produce one’s own food to allow for the violations of property rights, torture of animals, poaching, or to void all of Maine’s existing regulations or permit Mainers to run a farm out of a Portland apartment. There is no conflict between the language of the amendment and the language of animal cruelty laws. Animal safety regulations will stay on the books.

Read the [full analysis](#). R. Denisse Córdova Montes, Lecturer-in-Law and Supervising Attorney, Human Rights Clinic Founder and Director, University of Miami School of Law, has been instrumental in examining and analyzing exactly how Right to Food will improve Maine’s legal construct. The Clinic works for the promotion of social and economic justice globally and in the United States. Students from all over the world, including Maine, gain firsthand experience in cutting-edge human rights litigation and advocacy at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

When Mainers **Vote YES on 3**, the following clear and straightforward language will be included in the Constitution of Maine’s Declaration of Rights, becoming the first state in the nation to enumerate a Right to Food:

Section 25. Right to food. All individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to food, including the right to save and exchange seeds and the right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being, 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.

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Right to Food. Right for ME. Vote YES on Question 3.