



## The “MAPLE Act”

U.S. Senator Peter Welch

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### ***Legislation:***

The Making Agricultural Products Locally Essential (MAPLE) Act would add maple syrup to the eligible products that seniors can purchase under the Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

### ***Background:***

The Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) aims to enhance the diets of low-income seniors by providing them with coupons to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey from approved farmers markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs. Including maple syrup as an eligible product under this program aligns with broader efforts to promote healthy eating habits among seniors.

Maple syrup, a natural sweet product derived from the sap of maple trees, provides a healthier alternative to refined sugars. Moreover, expanding the SFMNP to include maple products offers vital support to small-scale maple producers, many of whom are family-owned operations in rural communities. By diversifying the range of eligible products to include maple products, the SFMNP can further enhance access to nutritious foods while fostering economic growth within the maple industry.

***Endorsing Organizations:*** The *MAPLE Act* is endorsed by the International Maple Syrup Institute, New York State Maple Producers Association, North American Maple Syrup Council, Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association, and Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association.