



**Massachusetts Food System Collaborative  
2022 State Representative and Senator Questionnaire**

**Your name:** Damian M Anketell

**Office Sought, including district:** State Senate, 2nd Essex

**Website:**

**What are three of your priorities that reflect your commitment to a healthy food system for Massachusetts and your constituents?**

**Priority 1**

Keep food affordable.

**Priority 2**

Have a strong supply line of food.

**Priority 3**

Have strong growing industry that employs more and more people each year.

**How would you support the Healthy Incentives Program?**

I will look at all options, but I do believe that any the fresher the food the healthier. I would support initiatives that incentivize healthier diets.

**How would you support farmers in adapting to climate change?**

I would support farmers efforts to do their job in the most efficient way. including waivers on any Climate Change initiatives that would force them to purchase new Green equipment.

**How would you help to ensure that children understand where food comes from, the importance of healthy eating, and other essential food literacy issues?**

I support school curriculum that would emphasize the importance of healthy food and its origins.

**What policies or investments would you support to protect farmland and increase farmland access?**

Have lived in the middle of tobacco and cotton farms in South Carolina I know how burdensome regulations hinder farmers from being the most efficient and profitable. I support reducing regulations, so farmers can do what they do best, farm.

**What strategies would you support to reduce food waste?**

I am open to support any reasonable Initiative would reduce food waste.

**How would you work to ensure that food system stakeholders of color - consumers, workers, farmers, landowners, and others - have equitable access to opportunities in all aspects of the food system?**

I think creating a sub-industry for a group of people is extraordinarily unfair. Equitable access initiatives for groups of people may seem fine, until someone down the line decides it too expensive or no longer needed and eliminate the program. In turn, leaving the very people the programs are claiming to help in jeopardy of losing everything they worked for their entire life. The famers I know never categorize themselves as black farmers, Hispanic farmers, male or female farmers, Muslim or Christian farmers. They are just farmers. If they need help as farmers, I will do everything i can to help. But, I couldn't in good conscience support something that could latter be taken away and cause greater damage to them.