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We are in a state of profound state of ecological change, in which no previously held paradigm is wholly adequate to meet this moment. What we do know is that agriculture that works in partnership with our ecology, rather than purely extractive, will be required to sustain Maine families and Maine culture. This is where we lead a nation largely in denial about the future we face. We should continue our tradition of quiet, independent leadership by example.

This is why I urge you to support the Maine Healthy Soils Program and Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program with healthy, full funding. Maine farmers need each other and a locus of scientific as well as knowledge gained through shared experience in order to meet the challenges of the future and ensure the independence of our livestock, vegetables, fruits and other plants.

Please work to provide FULL funding for these two programs.