

Lawrence and Penelope Higgins

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My name is Lawrence Higgins and live in Fairfield Maine with my wife Penny, and I am one of the leaders of the community group Fairfield Water Concerned Citizens. We have lived here going on 29 years where we raised our kids and grandchildren. We built a barn for our alpacas, mini horse, mini mule and mini donkey. We have always had chickens to supply our whole family and neighbors with eggs which now we were told are full of PFAS from the water and soil, which is why I am supporting the LD 132 bill.

October of 2020, we found out that our well water was contamination from the sludge that had been spread in the fields across the road from our house. DEP came out and took samples of our water. Three weeks later we got a phone call from the DEP saying to stop drinking, cooking, bathing or giving your water to your animals. This phone call knocked the wind right out of us and made us sick to our stomach. We have worked our whole lives raising our family, providing for them and trying our best to protect them in every way possible. We have invested over \$200,000.00 over the past ten years building our new retirement house and a new barn for all of our animals so that we could enjoy our golden retirement years. Now we find out that all of us including our animals have been poisoned with the PFAS chemicals in our water, soil and chicken eggs from the sludge that the State of Maine allowed to be spread. We never even thought that one water test would change our lives forever. We still have a mortgage on our new house so if we wanted to sell our home right now, we couldn't even give it away. We are living in limbo and just waiting to see which one of our organs are going to shut down from this PFAS through no fault of our own. Nobody can even imagine what it is like setting here knowing that these forever chemicals will one day kills us.

There are a lot of people who just cannot afford the \$600.00 cost to have their blood tested. I would think that this would be a small fee for insurance companies to cover rather than waiting until people find out that they have linked diseases from the PFAS. What do you think it is doing to our physical and mental well-being? Our water is testing at around 3,475 ppt. This is why we are supporting the LD 132 bill. Every person, young and old needs their blood tested for PFAS. **Early detection saves lives and money.**