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LD 130

Arleigh A. Kraus
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LD 130 An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination

Testimony in support of LD130

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry,

My name is Arleigh Kraus. I reside in Warren. I am a co-founder of Terragenix, a Maine based PFAS remediation research company focused on hemp based solutions, I also have a small family farm. I am here today to express my strong support for LD 130 An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination, which establishes the PFAS Response Program to protect Maine's agricultural producers, food supply, and public health from the devastating impacts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. PFAS contamination has caused significant harm to Maine's farming communities, jeopardizing livelihoods, land, and confidence in our food system. This bill takes a necessary step in providing resources to mitigate PFAS contamination, support affected farmers, and establish guidelines for addressing this ongoing issue.

The support of this legislation is essential to safeguarding Maine's agricultural future: Comprehensive PFAS Response Program: By creating a structured program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, this bill ensures that Maine has the tools to abate, clean up, and mitigate PFAS threats while providing direct support to affected farmers.

Maximum PFAS Levels in Farm Products: Establishing science-based maximum PFAS levels in consultation with the Maine CDC and DHHS will help protect consumers and maintain the integrity of Maine's agricultural industry.

Financial and Technical Assistance: Many farmers impacted by PFAS contamination face overwhelming financial burdens. This bill allows the state to provide necessary support, ensuring that affected farms can remain viable and continue contributing to our economy.

Strategic Research and Policy Development: Addressing PFAS contamination requires continued research and data-driven decision-making. This legislation enables the state to invest in research that informs effective farm management and regulatory approaches.

Responsible Land Management: The bill's modifications to the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination allow for the responsible management of contaminated agricultural properties, ensuring that resources are reinvested into PFAS mitigation efforts.

Maine's farmers should not have to bear the cost of contamination they did not cause. This bill demonstrates our state's commitment to standing with our agricultural community, protecting public health, and ensuring a safe and sustainable food supply for all Mainers.

I urge the Committee to support LD 130 An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination and move it forward to passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Arleigh A. Kraus