

Becky Seifrit
Stockton Springs
LD 451

Hello, my name is Becky,

I am the farm operator of Abreu Acres in Stockton Springs, Maine. Farming has been in my family's lineage for hundreds of years, but for the first time in our history, we are faced with the real fear of contamination. My farm has been tested for PFAS and cleared of contamination, but I know this is becoming increasingly rare in our state. The threat of PFAS contamination is devastating, and it forces farmers off their land, threatening their livelihoods.

Currently, there is a commercial solar array being considered for installation next to my farm. While I support renewable energy, I am deeply concerned about the potential for contamination from these projects. The State of Maine must prioritize the protection of agricultural land, especially PFAS-free farmland, from the risk of harmful substances being introduced by solar and wind developments.

LD 451 is a crucial step in ensuring that these energy projects do not contribute to PFAS contamination. This bill requires testing before construction and ongoing monitoring to ensure that these projects are truly clean. If solar and wind developers are committed to environmental responsibility, they should have no hesitation in proving their projects won't harm our land and water.

Landowners who lease their land for solar development knowingly risk the health of their land and the surrounding areas. Just as farmers are held responsible for contamination on their property and any impact it has on neighboring farms or water sources, those who lease their land for commercial solar projects should be held equally accountable. If contamination from a solar development affects nearby farms or the environment, the landowner who chose to lease their land must share responsibility with the developer.

LD 451 strikes a balance between supporting renewable energy and protecting Maine's farming heritage and environment. I urge the committee to pass this bill to ensure our land, our communities, and our future are protected.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Becky Seifrit
Farm Operator, Abreu Acres
Stockton Springs, Maine