

Sara Parker
Seed Pro Inc.
LD 473

As of today, Maine can ship anywhere they want because we have such tight rules and regulations that have protected our growers from quarantinable pests. I ask you to please consider the implications to the entire Maine Potato Industry if these lots were allowed to be planted in the state of Maine. We are the largest seed grower in the State and one of these lots were destined for our neighbor. Nematodes don't stop at property lines unfortunately and will spread. ATVs, pickups, equipment, will all spread them. Right now, we ship freely to any state and across the border to Canada, 1 mile from us. If the Colombia Root Knot Nematode were to be introduced here it could cost the industry millions in revenue and millions in testing. Once these are introduced, I expect CFIA to ask for a state survey for the Colombia Root Knot Nematode. Please consider the whole industry in this decision. I appreciate your time and thank you in advance.