



Stacy Brenner  
Senator, District 30

THE MAINE SENATE  
131st Legislature

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**Testimony in opposition to LD 289, “An Act to Require the State to Purchase Farms Contaminate with Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances” Before the Joint Standing Committee of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
February 13, 2023**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pleuker and Esteemed members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, I am Senator Stacy Brenner. I represent Senate District 30 which includes Gorham and most of Scarborough. I am here to speak in opposition to LD 289, “An Act to Require the State to Purchase Farms Contaminate with Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.”

First off, I want to thank my colleague, Representative Parry, for his continued support of farmers here in the state of Maine and especially in his district. As a farmer, it means the world to know that the legislature is united in its concern for making sure farmers impacted by PFAS are made whole.

My opposition is not for the intent of the bill but rather in the specificity of the bill. As a result of unanimous bipartisan support in the 130th legislature, we currently have \$60 million set aside in a fund to support impacted farmers. One of the measures this money may be spent on is the development of a farmland buyback program. In addition to a buyback program, the money may be used to provide health monitoring for impacted farmers and farmworkers, support farming operations pivot to mitigate the exposure to PFAS, and understand how PFAS functions in agricultural systems through research.

I am the Senate co-chair of the PFAS advisory committee, which is tasked with developing programming under the new law. We have been hard at work determining the specifics of all these initiatives. I would ask the committee to allow this process to unfold so that we may perform the duties to which we have been charged. The membership of the committee is united in our intent to build a strong and effective safety net for those impacted in the farming community.

We have a report due back to the committee in March and look forward to sharing more about how things are framing up with the fund. I believe the Director of the PFAS Contamination Fund, Beth Valentine, will be offering remarks as well and I urge you all to stay in touch with her as the process continues. I thank the committee and the legislature in the 130th for its prompt and fastidious attention to supporting farmers, especially Representative Parry for keeping the conversation front and center.

At this time, I urge the committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 289. Thank you for your time and attention.