

**Testimony of Ashley Luszczki**  
**On Behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce**  
**Supporting L.D. 1960, An Act to Support Farming in Maine by Extending the**  
**Deadline for Manufacturers of Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl**  
**Substances to Report on Those Products**  
**Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee**  
**March 18, 2024**

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources: My name is Ashley Luszczki, and I am before you today on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce testifying on L.D. 1960, An Act to Support Farming in Maine by Extending the Deadline for Manufacturers of Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Report on Those Products, as amended.

As we know, the repercussion from contamination has threatened the vitality of some Maine farms and the Chamber applauds the Legislature for its swift action to stop the spreading of PFAS-contaminated sludge on Maine farmland. We are, however, concerned that over-regulation may lead to unintended consequences that will hinder the success and competitiveness of Maine farmers.

Maine's agricultural sector is critical to our economy. According to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's 2023 Maine Agriculture Overview, Maine's potato production ranks in the Top 10 nationally, generating \$540 million in sales and providing thousands of jobs in local communities. Additionally, nearly 100 percent of wild blueberries in the United States are grown in Maine.

To ensure the continued availability of agricultural products our farmers rely on for crop production and protection, the Chamber is testifying in support of L.D. 1960. As amended, products for those uses which are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, or Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), would be exempt from Maine's PFAS law. These products play a pivotal role in safeguarding crops from devastating diseases and pests and help to ensure consumers have access to high-quality goods.

During the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Maine passed L.D. 264 that authorized the Maine Board of Pesticides Control to require manufacturers and distributors to provide affidavits stating if PFAS is used in the formulation of a registered pesticide, to conduct a study and submit a report of their findings to the Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. Specific to products governed under FIFRA, we believe the state should avoid interfering with long-standing federal pesticide regulation and current measures that have directed the Board of Pesticide Control to collect data on PFAS use.

In closing, the Chamber asks that you support L.D. 1966 as amended. The exemption of regulated products used for agriculture-specific purposes is essential to protecting the livelihoods of our farmers and preserving the economic prosperity of our state.