



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Tracy L. Quint

318 Westford Hill Rd.
Hodgdon, ME 04730
Residence: (207) 217-4493
Tracy.Quint@legislature.maine.gov

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Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee Environment and Natural Resources. I am Representative Tracy Quint and I represent District 8.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the concerns of some of the residents in my district. This started out as a concept draft, but due to the change in rules, I have attempted to craft a bill that would address the concerns that have been expressed to me. I am more than amiable to this committee taking my concerns and treating it as a concept to help me with issue I am trying to address. This is not my area of expertise.

After the PFAS debacle, where our state told farmers that it was safe to spread sludge on their fields, there is a concern about the oversight efforts concerning other issues that could affect our lands and air. As our state pushes for green energy, there are questions of whether our state regulatory agencies are properly assessing the impacts that these technologies may have on our environment. Is soil quality being monitored from the rapid proliferation of solar farms on farmer's fields. I have not found this type of information to be readily available. Many constituents have contacted me with concerns of the potential impact of solar farms and towns have requested information about proposing moratoriums against solar farms.

I have also had many constituents reach out over concerns of aerial spraying or what some would call chemtrails or "geoengineering" efforts. I am always willing to bring constituent concerns forward and once again, I have not found information readily available concerning soil testing in our state. I do understand that these are two different issues, but I have been asked about soil sampling in regards to both issues which is why I brought forward both concerns with this bill.

The purpose of this bill is draw attention to these concerns and to attempt to have our state do periodic soil testing with the results made available to the public. I believe that this can offer our state residents the confidence that we are doing our due diligence to ensure that we will not have the catastrophic consequences that we are now dealing concerning PFAS contamination. Remember that our state told farmers that spreading sludge was not only safe, but beneficial for their land.

I ask this committee to request that our state take concerns of our environment seriously and that we should ensure that progress in one area should not come with a detrimental price in another area. Thank you for your attention in this matter.