



*Maine Organic Farmers
and Gardeners Association*
Common Ground Country Fair

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Thank you to the committee for considering this important topic, and for taking testimony today. My name is Caleb Goossen, and I am the crop specialist for Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association – a role similar to, and often working in collaboration with, UMaine Cooperative Extension.

The need for research into PFAS contamination almost goes without saying. There are currently far more questions than answers, and accordingly, I support the general thrust of this bill.

I have not worked with legislation before, but I do have experience with agricultural research. This bill, as written, represents a potentially very large body of research, but suggests a timeline to deliver results and conclusions that would be very difficult to achieve satisfactorily. Additionally, it's unclear to me what funding sources would be expected to be utilized for this very expensive line of research. Each individual sample can cost hundreds of dollars to have analyzed.

I would propose a more stepwise approach for consideration. An initial goal of research this year to address immediate questions already raised by recent DEP, DACF, and Extension research work, would allow time for advance planning of future research, and crucially, time for all involved to seek funding – whether from federal or state resources. Funding must be secured, at least for costly sample analysis, and I would hope, also to compensate affected landowners for their time and the use of their property that allows this research to be performed under real-world applied conditions.

I am happy to discuss the topic further, should any committee members be so inclined, and would like to thank you for your time this morning.

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