

TOM AVERSA
Sebasticook Regional Land Trust, Unity
LD 2013

I am strongly in support of LD2013, which is an extremely poignant for me in my role as Board chairman for the Sebasticook Regional Land Trust. The agricultural tenants on our Richardson Memorial Preserve, Adam Nordell and Johanna Davis of Songbird Farm have had their entire lives thrown into turmoil when they found their farm, well, and blood contaminated. The irony of such this awful toxic situation being thrust upon this young farm family is heartbreaking. This wonderful couple always went out of their way to do everything as environmentally sound as could ever be imagined on their organic grain farm.

In recent years more young farmers have begun farming in Maine. This has been a critical part of rejuvenating agriculture in our state. Maine agriculture depends on how we meet the challenges of PFAS contamination on our farmland. Young farmers need robust support by the state of Maine to address all impacts of the PFAS contamination. Farmers who unknowing acquired farmland that was contaminated by a state-sponsored program had no role in proliferating this toxic debacle. The \$100 million that LD 2013 dedicates is the first step in attempting to right the wrong that has been done. As much money as possible should be dedicated to support for research, remediation and mitigation of the problems that have resulted, otherwise we will not have a viable farm community as we move ahead. The unfortunate farmers that have unwittingly dedicated their hard work and farming efforts should be financially compensated for their losses, which in some cases amounts to nearly their entire livelihoods.