Todd Alleger Appleton LD 2013

This testimony is in support of LD 2013 - An Act Relating to Perflouroalkyl and Polyflouroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State. Maine farmers whose health and business are effected by the historical spreading of PFAs should receive financial support form the state, the past policies of which permitted the spreading of known harmful chemicals on our state's agricultural lands. This is especially true for new and first generation farmers wishing to become part of Maine's agricultural heritage and strong farming community. As the farming community ages and multigenerational farms get sold off, a large group of eager, experienced, and community-minded farmers are ready to pick up the torch and help maintain and restore Maine's agricultural landscape. With no land to inherit, a portion of these new farmers find themselves, through no fault of their own, purchasing and growing their families and businesses on contaminated lands. Maine and it's agricultural organizations generally do a great job of supporting their farming communities, and making amends for the contamination of a portion of that land is the right thing to do in order to maintain the trust of Maine's small farming communities and their customers, and to set an example for the rest of the country.