Michael and Christa Bahner Belmont, Bahner Farm LD 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

Farmers with PFAS contaminated soil and water have not only lost their ability to farm their land but have also lost the land's development value due to the contamination. Covering the lands with solar panels can only be a solution after farmers have been freed of the economic burdens this PFA contamination has left them with.

Farmers themselves have unknowingly been exposed to these persistent chemicals.

As farmers ourselves, we know how incredibly crushing this would be. To lose our land, our livelihood, and discover that the land we care for had been toxic - it would feel like the end of the world.

The state, the companies and municipalities producing the waste and the companies handling the waste are all complicit in the spread of PFA's. Farmers unknowingly spread PFA infested sludge and biosolids on their lands but they are now the real victims of this whole debacle and should be given compensation in the form of a bailout from the state. The Great State of Maine has always been quick, on both sides of the aisle, to tout our farmers as cornerstones of our rural economy and a bright spot in our state's future. It's time to stop the talk and back up your farmers.

The state needs to accept responsibility for the contamination of farmland, and need to financially support and compensate affected farmers for their loss of income and the value of the contaminated land.

Thank you for your time.