



Stacy Brenner  
Senator, District 30

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
130th Legislature

388 Broadturn Road  
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**Supporting LD 2013, “An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State”**

**Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

**March 15, 2022**

Senator Dill, Representative O’Neil and honorable colleagues of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, I am Senator Stacy Brenner and I represent Senate District 30, which includes Gorham, most of Scarborough and part of Buxton. I’m here today to speak in support of LD 2013, “An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State.”

In addition to the legislature, I am on the boards of Maine Farmland Trust and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. I’m also a farmer at Broadturn Farm with my husband and a long-time crew of stellar folks who rely on our farm operation to pay their mortgages, student loans and utility bills.

I’ve always wanted to be a farmer. It’s a constant process of being humbled. What takes the wind from a farmer’s sail is usually an unknown but predictable variable: drought, hurricane, pest pressure. Some summers a farmer gives birth to a baby, or they grieve a tragic loss. Some summers they have great successes, and other summers they have a pandemic. But the work continues, and the quality of the product produced is never in question.

With PFAS contamination, the rollercoaster farmers are accustomed to now become a whole new ride.

As we have all been learning about the scope of PFAS contamination on farms, it is evident to me that the State has an undeniable responsibility to make this right. And when I say the State, let’s be clear what that is: a commitment by the relevant bodies of government to support revenue being directed toward the farming community to protect Maine agricultural via support for LD 2013.

In the 2021 agricultural census report, Maine’s total farm earnings were approximately \$681,000,000. The continued public and nonprofit investment in our agricultural sector is impressive. Maine has embraced the need to support farm businesses as an investment in our strong economy as well as an important way of life. We need to continue that support by passing

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LD 2013. No farmer should fear testing their land and water because the results might devastate their livelihood. Farmers need to know there is unequivocal support from the State to make this right.

I am grateful to the diligence and tenacity to which both the current Departments of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Conservation and Forestry have approached the discovery of PFAS contamination in our state since 2019. They have moved swiftly and acted with transparency to keep farmers, legislators and the public informed. Many are farmers themselves or come from farming families.

To those of you on the ACF committee, thank you for collectively embracing generative discussions to advance this bill. You are at the heart of this PFAS story right now.

And, if your heart is anywhere near as tender as mine, the farmers who come after me will humble you. The knot in your throat as you envision yourself in their shoes won't feel right.

I'm available to help explore directions for amending the bill to make it stronger and more farmer focused while providing flexibility as we continue to learn together. Let's get our farmers what they need to continue feeding Maine people.

Thank you.