

Laura Bridgman
Dixmont
LD 2013

To the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee:

I have been buying wonderful grains such as corn, wheat, rye, and buckwheat from local farms for years. I greatly value and support our local food system in Maine. PFAS chemicals have been found in the soil and water of many prime agricultural lands in the state. This is a consequence of the State of Maine having issued licenses for the sludge to be spread on these lands for decades. The farmers should not have to shoulder the costs of the devastating crisis of PFAS contamination.

I am writing in support of LD2013, which would provide financial assistance to farms affected by PFAS contamination.

The farm families need lifetime health monitoring, funding opportunities for income replacement and farm buyouts, if necessary, and help with mortgage payments, as their livelihood has dried up.

Research is needed to support development of Maine's agricultural sector in this new context, including research on soil and water remediation methods.

It is time for the State of Maine to take responsibility for the sludge spreading it sanctioned, and to help farmers deal with the legacy effects of PFAS contamination.

Thank you