

Rachel Chapman
Montville
LD 2013

Testimony to Support LD 2013

My name is Rachel Chapman, and I own Seven Moon Farm; a certified organic vegetable farm on rented land in Montville. I am fortunate, and grateful, to not have discovered PFAS contamination on my land.

Tonight I can say that I personally know four families who have discovered PFAS contamination far exceeding the State of Maine's safety threshold in their soil, in their water, in their crops and dairy, or in their own bodies. Four farms who have fed me, employed me, employed my friends, fed my community. Four families with children who have grown up drinking water contaminated by PFAS, who have nurtured children with breastmilk contaminated by PFAS.

I know they aren't alone, and I know they won't be the last. There will be many more farms, families, and communities facing PFAS contamination in the days, months, and years to come.

These farms confront the unknown risks of PFAS exposures to themselves, their families, and the communities which they feed. They face this without support from the State of Maine; without support from the same State which issued the licenses to spread sludge on their land in the first place. It's despicable that it takes a public hearing to impress the urgency of this issue upon our lawmakers and governing body. It is the responsibility of the State of Maine to deliver support to farmers adversely affected by its environmentally devastating sludge policy. Farmers in Maine do not deserve shoulder the costs of this crisis, we do not deserve to be responsible for remediation and transition with no safety net.

Farmers in Maine need the support of the State, now.