

To: Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Conservation, 130th Maine State Legislature **Re:** LD 2013 - An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State

Date: 3/14/22

Dear Senator Dill, Representative O'Neill, and honorable members of the Committee,

As a citizen of Maine, a mother, a gardener, and supporter of the state's farmers I cannot overemphasize how upsetting the discovery of forever chemicals in our state's soil, water, food, and animals is.

I urge you to vote to pass LD 2013 - An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination.

This affects farmers, those who eat the food raised and grown by the farmers, and hunters who eat the animals from these lands. All of them, all of us, have been unjustly impacted by PFAS contamination. But it is the farmers who are at the core of our state's food security who need our state's support now.

Thirty years ago our family lived in Thorndike. We drove by the Hawk Ridge sludge dump everyday to work. The smell was incredible, like no other smell we had ever smelled before. The folks who lived in Unity Plantation were begging for relief. But it turns out the smell was/is the least of our concerns. We pleaded with DEP to stop the licensing of this dump and the spreading of this toxic sludge and we pleaded with farmers to not use it. All to deaf ears.

Now thirty years later we ask who is responsible for the effects we are seeing thirty years after these decisions? Obviously the state is. The very least the state can do is to pass LD 2013 which would begin the process of providing financial aid and health monitoring to farmers and their families whose livelihoods and health are in such dire jeopardy.

Thank you for working to fix this incredibly serious issue that never should have occurred in the first place.

Sincerely,

Mary Dunn
43 Hunts Meadow Road
Whitefield, ME 04353

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LD 2013

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