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Camden  
LD 2013

Maine is renowned for its leadership in the farm-to-table and local organic food movements. Over several decades a vibrant collaboration among family farmers, restaurateurs, and consumers, took what was once simply a trend and built it into a substantial driver for the State's economy - and part of what makes Maine special. Recent passage of the nation's first "right to food" amendment to the State's constitution also illustrates the continued importance of these efforts, and local food, to Mainers.

Unfortunately, a growing appreciation of the risks posed by the presence and lingering persistence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in soil, water, and crops, highlights an increasingly significant issue which directly affects Maine's farming community. As concerned Maine citizens, consumers, and supporters of our local food producers, we urge you to support LD 2013 to help support those farmers impacted by PFAS contamination.

Unlike other states where PFAS contamination may be attributed to direct discharge from industrial facilities, the University of Maine notes that here in Maine PFAS contamination is linked to the land application of waste water treatment residuals including sludge, septage, or biosolids. For many years this was considered, erroneously, as a beneficial reuse, and the State is to be commended for its efforts to now investigate, assess, and mitigate the impacts of this contamination.

As the scope of this issue continues to unfold, LD 2013, would greatly assist Maine farmers deal with the health and financial impacts created by PFAS contamination of farmland and water - which may well have occurred years before these producers acquired or leased their property. The "Fund to Address PFAS Contamination", and the related Advisory Committee, which this legislation creates, are vitally important to supporting affected farmers with income replacement and mortgages payments, health monitoring, and research into alternatives necessary to address this contamination and support the continued development of Maine's agricultural sector.

Thank you!  
Peter & Susan Fitzgerald  
Camden, Maine