

Jonathan Fulford
Belfast
LD 2013

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: 3/15/22

Dear Senator Dill, Representative O'Neill, and honorable members of the Committee, I am writing to you to urge you to vote ought to pass for LD 2013 - An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination.

I am a co-founder of Waldo County Bounty, an organization working on food security in Waldo County. Some of the farms we work with are contaminated with high levels of PFAS and are no longer able to grow food crops. They have voluntarily been tested and are being transparent with the results, ending their production and facing economic ruin because of this. We need to pass this legislation not only to take responsibility for the State of Maine's complicity in the spreading of the contaminated sludge that has poisoned these farmers and their children, destroyed their businesses, and unknowingly caused contaminated food to be grown and consumed, but also to allow other farmers to take the risk of exploring whether they are contaminated by these "Forever Chemicals". If we do not provide a robust safety net for farmers then we are asking them to assume all the terrible consequences from the poisoning of their farms. This is not only grossly unjust to the farmers but an idiotic way to address a food safety issue affecting all of us. As consumers, we all need farmers find out if their farms are contaminated and for that information to be made public.

For everyone's health and safety Please vote to pass LD 2013 so we can help the farmers who are bearing the brunt of this failure of our society to safely regulate harmful chemicals. Respectfully,

Jonathan Fulford, Belfast, ME