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LD 2013

The State provided licenses to spread sludge, contaminating parcels of land seemingly in perpetuity. The minimum responsibility that the State holds, the lowest possible bar to clear, is to try, in some way, to help those people whose lives have been harmed irrevocably by this decision, and to stop the continued dumping of toxic sludge.

Our friends and neighbors have already had their health threatened, and now risk losing their livelihoods, because of decisions that were not theirs to make. They bear no culpability but suffer all of the consequences.

Beyond the clear moral imperative to do so, the consequences of our legislators not taking action will be nothing less than empty, poisoned land: those who worked to steward gone and bankrupted. Communities will lose their already limited access to secure local food, in a time when inflation and supply chain disruptions threaten our food system as a whole. Our state will wither- literally and figuratively.