

Kelsey Herrington
Two Farmers Farm, Biddeford ME
LD 2013

I am writing in support of LD 2013: An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State. Farm owners and workers are losing their livelihoods due to PFAS contamination of farms. As a farmer in southern Maine whose entire family income is generated by farming but who has not (yet) been directly impacted by PFAS contamination, I am writing in solidarity with the farm owners and workers who are now losing their livelihoods for reasons outside of their control. The state of Maine issued the licenses for the sludge to be spread, therefore it is the state of Maine's responsibility to deliver support to farm owners and farm workers who are adversely affected by this destructive decision. There is also a shortage of skilled farmers in Maine, so as a society we need to make sure that these individuals are able to continue to support and grow Maine's local food system. Farmers and farm workers impacted by PFAS need funds for income replacement, housing payments, health monitoring, and new infrastructure/business models/farm management practices. They also need relocation services and support buying new land and selling contaminated land. Research is also necessary to support the development of Maine's agricultural sector, including soil and water remediation methods.