Sheila Jarnes Portland LD 2013

I'm writing in support of LD 2013. I'm a resident of Portland, and moved here from Massachusetts a couple of years ago, in no small part because of the vibrant ecosystem and strong farm and food community. To think that hardworking people have put their life savings into pursuing a dream of owning their own farm, only to find that everything they have put their blood, sweat, and tears into is toxic, is just unfathomable and gut-wrenching. This is a rugged state full of strong people who like to make their own way, and not being able to safely grow your own food and provide it to your community just strips away so much of what it means to live in Maine.

We must support these families and farmers in every way we can, to ensure they are not financially ruined by something the state is, in the end, responsible for. It's heartbreaking enough that families are being uprooted and have to leave their homes and businesses, without the added anguish of serious financial distress. I urge you to pass LD2013, and to provide lasting support to these families.