

## **LD 2013**

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Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and members of the committee I am Penny Jordan, one of the owners of Jordan's Farm in Cape Elizabeth I am here to speak in favor of LD 2013

I see this as an important step in ensuring that we continue to grow agriculture in Maine

I see four key stakeholders in this legislation:

1. Farmers
2. Consumers
3. Communities
4. State

**Farmers:** we need farmers to continue to grow food for our state – to do this we need to create mechanisms that assess the problem, develop solutions, and assist if there is a need to transition to either a new farm or a new type of farming – there needs to be a safety net.

**Consumers:** we need consumers to continue to have confidence in Maine's food source, this can be done if farmers have the information. This funding will demonstrate that as a state we are taking action to ensure Maine food is safe and that we recognize the issue and seek to ensure the viability of Maine farms and the safety of Maine's farmland and water resources.

**Communities:** we need to supply communities with research and mitigation strategies on water and land issues. This bill will include research that can inform actions needed by communities if agricultural land is deemed contaminated. What does this mean to future uses?

**State:** we need to develop approaches to address contamination in soils and water. We need to fund research and create a path forward for impacted soils and water. We need Maine's agricultural products to be viewed as safe throughout New England, across the country (and around the world).

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As the owner of a farm, I am committed to ensuring the safety of the food that we grow and sell. I feel blessed that our farm did not spread sludge. I believe we need to address the impacts PFAS will have on the livelihoods of Maine farmers, the growth of Maine agriculture, and the safety of our water sources.

I know this is a lot of money – I urge you to support this bill and this level of funding.

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