

Joy Longfellow
Searsport
LD 2013

My name is Joy Longfellow and I am a resident of Searsport, Maine. I am writing to express my concern about PFAS contamination in Maine soils and water, and to express my support for LD 2013.

I was raised in Maine. My family farmed the land where I grew up and I have always been proud of that connection to the soil. I left Maine after high school but that pride and that connection to the earth brought me back to Maine to live and work. I now work at Johnny's Selected Seeds, supporting the company's mission of helping communities feed one another. And I am devastated to hear what is unfolding now as so many farms are facing the legacy of PFAS contamination in their soils, in the food they are growing, and in their bodies. I am devastated to realize how many Mainers are facing the consequences of this contamination, whether they farmed or not, just by their unlucky proximity to contaminated soil and water.

Maine has developed a reputation as a good place for young farmers to find support as they start their farming journey. I moved back to Maine because of my belief that the soil that supported my family could also support me and my belief that Maine is a good place to live, work and farm. I want this to be true, for myself and for all of the farmers and residents of Maine, present and future. But Maine's reputation as a good place for farms and farmers could be threatened if farmers and others affected by PFAS contamination are not supported.

Maine has an opportunity to be a leader in this work to address PFAS contamination in our soils. Our communities benefit from locally produced food and the presence of farmers in our midst. We need to make sure that the farmers who bravely came forward and took action on a problem they did not cause get the support they need from the State of Maine. We need to make sure that there is a future for farmers in Maine. LD 2013 will be one step in that direction and I urge you to support this bill.