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portland
LD 2013

My name is Amanda MacLeod and I am testifying in support of LD2013.

I have lived in Maine my entire life, and I have lots of State pride for my home. I grew up in a rural area, with lots of access to outdoor space. For generations, my ancestors have sustained themselves on primarily local food sources. This has instilled in me a deep sense of stewardship for the land that we live on- it provides a space for healthy food, activity, and community.

I've also had the opportunity to work on several Maine farms, and have seen the brutally hard, never-ending labor. Our Maine farmers dedicated themselves to supporting their local communities, as well as protecting the land they sow. With strong understanding of the value of healthy soil, water, and environment they commit themselves to protecting where they work. This is good for Maine, and our future.

When I first heard about many of these farmers discovering PFAS on their farms, and learned about how these chemicals got into their soil and water in the first place, I knew it was going to be devastating. Entire food systems are at risk during a time of upheaval and uncertainty. Mainers rely on these farmers for food, but it also adds stability and growth to Maine's environment and economy- allowing us to move towards being self reliant on our own food systems in a time of so much environmental, political, an economic instability.

These farmers have given so much to Maine, and it is our duty to support them during this time. They did not decide to dump this waste onto their soils, to abandon them due to decisions made long before they farmed the land is irresponsible and neglectful. That isn't how we take care of eachother in Maine. From a common sense standpoint, investing in Maine's local agriculture, truly the backbone of sustainability moving forward, is the number one way to ensure Maine resilience in increasingly uncertain times. LD2013 offers us the chance, at this crossroads, to invest in a more hopeful future. This is how, in this moment of crisis, we come together and put those words into action. Please support LD2013.