

Alessia McCobb
Brunswick
LD 2013

I am testifying in support of LD 2013, because the contamination of farmland in Maine by PFAS is creating significant hardship and irreplaceable loss of the livelihoods and homesteads of many Maine farmers. As a farmer myself, I know that the abrupt loss of income following the discovery of PFAS contamination on my land would be difficult to recover from, given that there is no easy fix and that farmers have usually invested many years and significant capital into their farm properties. Earning income through a change in use of the land, or through acquiring new land, would take years and substantial investment of capital on the part of the farmers. On top of the stress of pivoting careers or moving to new land, affected farmers face the stress of knowing their bodies are highly contaminated with PFAS, which could lead to negative health impacts in the future. Maine farmers affected by PFAS contamination need our help in moving forward from this tragedy, through financial support, health monitoring, and through research aimed at remediating and managing contaminated soils.