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LD 2013

Please pass LD 2013 and provide much needed financial assistance to the farmers struggling with the heartbreaking, infuriating, confusing situation of dealing with PFAS contamination on their land. These are individuals who have worked so hard to be good land stewards, healthy food providers, and community resources and their lives are now in complete upheaval through no fault of their own. The investments they've put into the land over many years- whether building up the organic matter in the soil or building farm related infrastructure now have very little value thanks to the contamination they had no role in. The PFAS Impacted Farmer Mitigation Fund will be crucial to helping farmers and their families figure out how to move forward.

Usually this time of year brings the excitement of spring, the first seedlings in the greenhouse, and a new season, but instead, for farms with PFAS contamination there is stress, grief, and so many unknowns and huge decisions to make, most of which require large costs at a time when these farms are unable to sell any products they have. Each business will have different needs, whether it is a buyout, income replacement, or assistance with testing costs, but having a fund like this will hopefully make it possible for more people to continue farming in some capacity either on their current land or on a new property. The Fund would support farmers who make the hard choice to stop selling their products until they get test results back even though it can take several weeks (or months) and multiple rounds of testing to really know the full situation of the water and soil.

Financially supporting impacted farmers as well as funding research and health monitoring would have positive effects that would spread through the whole community. Supporting these farmers will also help their families, customers, neighbors, and employees (like me) who have lost their jobs and wish they could do more to help their friends.

The knowledge of growing food is specific, incredibly valuable, and more important than ever in these challenging times. This fund would support those people who do the critical work of feeding all of us and help them figure out how to move forward in their lives. Please support LD 2013.