

Steve Page
Bremen
LD 2013

My name is Steve Page, I'm from Bremen, in Lincoln County but I started in Knox County and spent most of my life in Waldo County so just call me a mid-coaster.

As one who has worked for a better environment as a lifelong farmer, a regulator, and a biosolids utilization contractor I support LD 2013.

We have worked hard to clean the waters. In so many ways we have succeeded, but then we rested on our laurels once the Androscoggin ran cleaner and sturgeon returned to the Kennebec. The job is not done. It will never be done. Wastewater treatment systems need major revision to isolate contaminants at the source. Landfills have to treat leachate. Perfecting the science is our challenge, and it will continue to cost.

We have found a new toxin, hidden molecules, the poison of convenience foisted upon us. Detectable as a grain of sand on an endless beach. PFAS is the challenge of this generation as DDT and dioxin were the challenges of the past. I have confidence we can rise to the occasion.

There are two options for PFAS: We can leave the molecules in the soil, letting them slowly leach into groundwater, then filter the water we drink, bring to the animals or use to water the garden.

Alternatively, based on current published research, I believe we can farm out the PFAS with extractive crops and over a reasonable time restore prime farmland to unrestricted use. We can mobilize our current farmers and infrastructure to do this job of cleansing the soil, leaving prime soil to future generations. Remediating contaminated soil can be part of the solution, and a cost-effective one at that. Lets save some money for rethinking how we manage wastewater.

The cost of this bill large, but admit it, it's on us, all of us, who have bought into convenience without knowing the cost. In comparison to what has already been spent on wastewater treatment over the past 50 years, this appropriation is past due.

Respectfully,
Steve Page
Bremen, Maine