

Joseph Pearl
Knox
LD 2013

Good morning,

We all owe a great debt to the courageous farmers who have come forward and informed the public about PFAS contamination on their land and in their products. Without their bravery and integrity, this very serious public health issue could have been further ignored and could have continued to spread and worsen. These farmers have risked (and in some cases completely sacrificed) their livelihoods and their brands to keep consumers safe.

Sometimes debts cannot be paid back right away, but today we have another option: the state of Maine has a tremendous budget surplus, a small fraction of which could be used to provide a lifeline to these farmers. At the VERY least, we can offer them income replacement, health monitoring, and assistance with farm buyouts. This is not a manufactured crisis, it is the very real result of poor decision making in the past, and our local family farms deserve justice. We have the opportunity right now to repay this debt and to make better decisions about the stewardship of our precious farmland than we have in the past.

Please support LD 2013.