

John Rietz
Whitefield
LD 2013

For all of my adult life, I have been working to strengthen the resilience of the local food system in Maine. As a grower and a professional at one of Maine's seed & supply companies, I write to testify in support of this bill.

The state of Maine issued the licenses for the sludge containing PFAS to be spread, therefore it is the state of Maine's responsibility to deliver support to farms adversely affected by this destructive decision. While I have not had my land tested for PFAS yet, I'm friends with a number of growers whose primary on-farm water source was recently tested at well over 100X higher than Maine's PFAS safety threshold. These test results have led some to make the difficult decision not to grow crops on their land this year, and forced them to consider relocating their farms and homes.

I sincerely hope this bill passes so that we retain all the amazing growers we have in Maine, and so that the state's food system can regenerate and be revitalized.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my testimony!