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LD 2013

I remember when I was a girl and my father and uncle were spreading municipal sludge on our farm fields. It had an awful smell. And I remember that my father said the sludge was a good fertilizer after I questioned him about how it seemed unsanitary (I probably said "gross") in comparison to the usual cow or chicken manure that had been used in the past. It was approved by the DEP, but now we know the tragic consequences. Luckily, our farm has low levels, but others are not so lucky. I'm sure those farms did everything right, according to the regulations, but now they are paying the consequences.

Undoubtedly, a lack of awareness on the state's part is at the core of the issue, but that does not relieve the state from its responsibility to mitigate to the best of its ability the fallout for so many farms and farming families. Agriculture is at the heart of Maine's identity and its economy, so please do not let the issue of trying to save agriculture fully fall on the backs of those who already work so hard. They cannot bear the weight. Please pass LD2013.