

Karen Snyder
Portland, ME
LD 2013

Greetings Senator Dill and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

My name is Karen Snyder and I am a resident of Portland, ME. I am currently the chair of the Portland Pesticide Management Advisory Committee and I am writing to you to strongly urge your committee to support the LD 2013 Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State and LD2019- An Act To Require the Registration of Adjuvants in the State and To Regulate the Distribution of Pesticides with Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

The United States and State of Main Maine are currently facing an environmental, health and business crisis. In the State of Maine, this crises would have been 100% avoidable if the state regulators had respected and listed to Maines organic community rather than pesticide and waste disposal community.

Through no fault of their own, farmers across the state are facing loss of livelihood and significant health impacts due to contamination from PFAS, the so-called "forever chemicals". PFAS exposure has been linked to health problems, including kidney and testicular cancer, thyroid disease, infertility and compromised immune systems. Almost all of us, including infants, have PFAS in our blood due to the widespread use of the chemicals in consumer products, food packaging, and the global contamination of soil and water. PFAS-contaminated sludge has been spread on farmland in Maine since the 1980s, a practice approved by the DEP as a way to help farmers obtain fertilizer and simultaneously provide a waste disposal option for municipal waste treatment plants and pulp and paper factories.

While some funding for PFAS mitigation has been proposed in the Governor's budget, it is inadequate. Estimates from Maine DEP put state costs at \$10-20M annually, and that's without assistance for farmers. Maine needs to provide a path forward for farmers. LD 2013 will provide a much needed safety net for impacted farmers.

Furthermore, To continue to allow PFAs and not ban them out right immediately on the use of all land applications of raw sludge and composted sludge is reckless and is perceived as the legislature is not concerned about the health of it's citizens or the environment.

I hope this committee sees this PFAs situation that the State of Maine is currently in as a dire situation and a wake up call to start respecting scientific analysis and organic approaches. All State of Maine regulators need to start looking through the lens of "cradle to grave" concept and not what is good for short term profits.

Consequently, I hope you approve LD 2013 in combination of LD 2019 in regards to the future crises the PFAS issue will cause. Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards,
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PMAC (City of Portland's Pesticide Management Advisory Committee) Chair
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