

March 15, 2022

To the **Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee,**

My name is Molly Stone, and I live in Camden Maine. I have a quarter-acre presumed organic garden in which I grow a lot of our food, which we eat and share fresh with others as well as preserving for winter use and for gifts. I also grow flowers which I sell locally. I had expected to expand this year to selling herbs and vegetables as well. Now, without information on whether our soil is safe, I cannot do this with any good conscience.

To develop the cropped area, we purchased soil from an earthwork contractor, who purchased it from someone else. We have talked to that person, and there is no way to know if the soil came from a farm that received biosolids or any type of solids that could have PFAS contamination - without testing. The only quote I have received so far to test one sample costs \$1200. Most labs I have contacted are unwilling to work with small individually owned farms/gardens.

Going forward, Maine needs to QUICKLY ban the use of ANY of these chemicals from use or distribution. Maine also needs to figure out a plan for all landowners large and small to easily test their soil and remediate. Many Mainers depend on small crop sales for their livelihood; our restaurant 'farm to table' brand depends on safe food.

LD 2013 will help a lot of this. Please pass this as the first step in this horrible saga so many farmers – large and small – are facing,

Sincerely,

Molly Stone

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