

Collin Thompson  
Belfast  
LD 2013

The unfortunate situation we find ourselves in right now is a heartbreaking example of getting ahead of the science. Due to assumptions made by individuals, businesses, and entire industries decades ago, there are now families and businesses at risk of losing everything.

I work in agriculture, and the issues surrounding PFAS contamination have seemingly hit farmers especially hard. To a farmer, contaminated land and water does not just represent a potential loss of a livelihood. It also equates to the loss of a home and lifestyle, developed over years of hard work and determination. This doesn't even begin to touch on the fear, heartbreak, and anger felt after realizing the health of their families has potentially been compromised. The land that these farmers have been painstakingly nurturing for years to provide sustenance to their families and communities is now recognized as the source of illness and harm. This is a complete upheaval for those affected within the agricultural community and providing support during this time is the very least that can be done for them.

This contamination is not the result of actions these farmers took. It is the outcome that was dealt to them by someone else, decades ago, and they were unfortunate enough to be the recipients. These are not poor managers or unaware farmers – they are hardworking, honest, and critical members of our communities that have been handed a devastating blow and we need to provide them with the resources and support they need to be whole again.

I urge you to support LD 2013 and start the process of providing these individuals and communities the support they need and deserve.