

Lucas Weaver
Portland
LD 2013

To: Sen. Dill, Rep. O'Neil, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

From: Lucas Weaver, 60 Emerson Street, Portland, ME 04101

Re: Support for LD 2013, An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State

Sen. Dill, Rep. O'Neil, and members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, my name is Lucas Weaver and I reside in Portland. I am testifying as an individual in support of LD 2013, An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State.

Although I'm relatively new to farming as a career, having grown up in Minnesota I am intimately familiar with how critical agriculture can be for a community. Regardless of whether a farm is supplying food or feed, fuel or flowers, agriculture is at its core about connecting and caring for both the planet and others.

Since moving to Maine, I've felt extremely grateful to feel more closely connected to agriculture than ever before in my life. Despite the issues of equality and access that we face within Maine's food system, the proximity and support of local, sustainable, family-run agriculture here has felt truly unique, and like something that must be cherished and protected.

That is why it's been so disheartening, and honestly terrifying, to learn of the extent and impact of "forever chemical" contamination across the state.

In the words of my former farm manager, "PFAS contamination is an absolute tragedy that will span the country in the next decade. Maine is the first state with its own testing task force, but sludge usage is not unique to Maine farming. It's going to be a disaster."

The recommendations and groundwork laid out in LD 2013 are a great start, but Maine has an opportunity here to not only do the right thing, but also set the standard high for other states across the country who will be facing the realities of chemical contamination in the coming years.

As one of your constituents, I would encourage the Joint Committee to act urgently and with courage and implement badly needed support for Maine agriculture as we face this massive threat to our health.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.