

Jonathan Wilcox
Paris
LD 2013

Testimony Submission for L.D. 2013
An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State

Dear Chairpersons James Dill, Margaret O'Neil and committee members,
I am writing to urge you to support L.D. 2013 because of the toxic effects and the toll "forever chemicals" have on Maine and its citizenry, ground water, crops, wildlife, and how devastating it is to the way of life of farmers, families and consumers.

I am a seventh generation farmer, now retired. I began my farming life by going to a Vocational Agricultural High School, majoring in Market Farming where I graduated 3rd in my class. I saw firsthand and through my studies what toxic chemicals can do to both humans and plant crops and animals.

There are many reasons to support this bill because of the devastation it has on the families and consumers of contaminated sites, potentially ruining reputations and the way of life of farm families, especially the long-term negative health effects on the farmers and their children. Another reason is all the work to certify a farm as an organic farm, only to have the "rug-pulled-out-from-under-you" as farmer's dreams are shattered, financial hardship, loss of time, damage to reputation, lack of support and understanding is an ongoing nightmare, not just for one person but for all involved especially when blood serum levels are exceeding any established levels which results in lifelong unknowns of health damage.

This is not the "Way Life Should Be" (citation below) slogan implemented by Maine Tourism Board in 1987 under Governor McKernan; the slogan has embedded itself into every single resident and every visitor to the state of Maine when entering the state, on the "Welcome to Maine" sign. Is that image going to be replaced with a statewide superfund clean-up site designation, showing farm families walking away, heart-broken, turned away by Maine's Legislature for lack of responsibly addressing the issue?

Again, I urge you to support L.D. 2013.

Thank you,
Jonathan Wilcox

Citation: Article by Professor Chris Potham, Posted July 18, 2004, The Sun Journal website:
<https://www.sunjournal.com/2004/07/18/maine-way-life-be/>