

Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 1960 *An Act to Support Farming in Maine by Extending the Deadline for Manufacturers of Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Report on Those Products*

March 18, 2024

To: Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

My name is Andy (Anne D.) Burt and I live in Edgecomb. I **am writing to testify in OPPOSITION to LD 1960.**

Just a few years ago I read with deep sadness the tragic stories of Maine farmers — young families realizing their dream to farm and older families farming the same land for generations —who lost everything when PFAs contamination was discovered on their farms. While we could not give them back their dreams or miraculously detoxify their farm soil, as good neighbors the State passed legislation to help these farmers recoup some of their economic losses.

Since then, Maine has been a national leader in taking thoughtful steps to address the economic and health problems that have resulted from PFAs in our environment. But this legislation (LD 1960) to extend a reporting deadline to manufacturers of PFAs-laced farming products just kicks the toxic can down the road, poisoning more Maine land and water supplies, negatively impacting Mainers' health, and, no doubt, requiring Maine taxpayers in the long run to foot future clean-up and healthcare costs.

The dangers of PFAs are no longer hidden. Scientists have found the harmful chemicals in well water and wildlife across Maine, putting many Maine businesses dependent on natural resources at economic risk. And we know farmers can successfully transition to farming without using toxic fertilizer products. Our current laws provide ample time for farmers to move in a less polluting direction.

I ask you to follow the precautionary principle “do no harm” and move our state towards an environment of cleaner water and healthier soils that can sustain all people in Maine now and in the future. Please vote **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** on LD 1960.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your service to Maine.

Anne Burt
Edgecomb
LD 1960

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