

# SUPPORT MAINE FARMERS IMPACTED BY PFAS CONTAMINATION

LD 2013 will provide funding and resources to support Maine farmers impacted by PFAS contamination.

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## PFAS contamination threatens Maine farmers and farmland.

- Through no fault of their own, farmers across the state are facing loss of livelihood due to contamination from PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), the so-called “forever chemicals.”
- PFAS are toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative, leading to possible health impacts including fertility issues, immunotoxicity, and increases in certain types of cancer.
- State-sponsored programs that urged farmers to spread biosolids on their farmland have led to PFAS pollution across the state, contaminating Maine farmland and endangering the health and livelihood of Maine farmers.

## Maine farmers are not responsible for this contamination and should not bear the burden of remediation.

- Many farmers are doing the right thing by stopping production and sales until they know their products are safe, but doing so leads to loss of the only source of revenue for most of these families.
- Those with contaminated farmland need assistance immediately to help supplement their income and to pay wages of farm staff that depend on them.
- Maine can and should be self-reliant with its food supply. We need to ensure that farmers have the financial, technical, health, and land resources they need to support vibrant Maine agriculture.
- While some funding for PFAS mitigation has been proposed in the Governor's budget, it is inadequate. Estimates from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) put state costs at \$10-20 million annually, and that's without assistance for farmers.



## The state must step in to help farmers deal with the impacts of this contamination.

- Allocating \$100 million as a safety net for farmers affected by PFAS is an essential first step.
- LD 2013 would provide funding opportunities to help impacted farmers through income replacement and farm buyouts if necessary.
- It would also set up a medical monitoring program to help impacted communities monitor their health for possible impacts due to PFAS exposure.
- Robust research is needed so farmers have the information they need to make decisions about their businesses and their health, and to support the remediation of Maine farmland.

## Support LD 2013. Establish the PFAS Impacted Farmer Mitigation Fund.

For more information, please contact

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# Environmental Priorities Coalition



Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is a partnership of 37 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 120,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

**We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so all Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.**

