



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
LD 1537 An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the Prevention of Perfluoroalkyl and  
Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution and to Provide Additional Funding

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and honorable members of the Committee  
on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Julie Ann Smith, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Farmers  
Coalition, a collective of progressive farmers deeply committed to ensuring the  
sustainable growth and protection of Maine's vital farming industry.

Our farmers are grateful to President Jackson for introducing language that provides an  
exemption for agricultural crop production and protection that is identical to the  
exemption proposed for veterinarian products. It is equally imperative to protect our  
food production as it is to protect our livestock and pets.

While we understand the concerns surrounding PFAS and their potential health effects,  
the proposed exemption has been carefully worded to ensure it is based on a thorough  
risk assessment process, utilizing the vast resources of the FDA, USDA, EPA, and  
Maine's Board of Pesticide Control. Crop protectants with any level of PFAS  
contamination are currently banned through federal and state legislation. The EPA has  
implemented a PFAS roadmap that is pursuing a comprehensive approach to  
proactively prevent PFAS from entering air, land, and water at levels that can adversely  
impact human health and the environment. This would ensure that farmers are still able  
to grow and protect their crops and strike a balance between protecting the environment  
and ensuring food security for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important opportunity for Maine. I  
would be happy to answer any questions.

