

Dear Chair Aron and Members of the Environment and Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1275, *An act relative to the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on agriculture*. I am a wastewater treatment plant operator for the town of Hampton and have been following the fate of PFAS as it relates to our industry for many years. I would like to echo the NHWPCA's **concerns about provisions in HB 1275 as currently drafted**, particularly the proposed **five-year moratorium on land application of sludge and biosolids on agricultural lands**.

As an operator one of the many things that keep me up at night is what would happen if I was required to change how I dispose of our biosolids. Over the years I have watched other plants struggle as options for disposal dwindle, some looking to other states or even Canada to truck their solids. I have also watched the scramble in Maine after their ban was implemented. Space was eventually found, but at a cost.

NH wastewater operators have long balanced our duty to protect the health of New Hampshire citizens and the state's natural water resources with our fiscal responsibilities to our rate payers. An outright ban on land application does not provide a solution to the PFAS problem, it merely shifts the burden to other already limited options, such as land filling.

NHDES has been actively engaged in developing **screening standards, monitoring protocols, and risk-based guidance** grounded in science to protect human health and the environment. Preserving this regulatory pathway ensures that PFAS risks are addressed without prematurely eliminating beneficial reuse options that are already subject to oversight, permitting, and compliance requirements.

I would **respectfully ask the Committee to consider amendments to HB 1275 that remove the broad moratorium on land application of biosolids**, instead incentivizing further research, monitoring, best practices, and targeted safeguards that protect both agricultural soils and water quality without wholesale elimination of a beneficial management practice.

Respectfully submitted,

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