

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

My name is Janice M. Cardoza. I am a resident of Norway, Maine and I attend the First Universalist Church of Norway. I am writing as a member of MUUSAN, (Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network).

I am writing in support of **LD 1911 An Act to Prohibit the Contamination of Clean Soils with So-called Forever Chemicals.**

PFAs are labeled “forever chemicals” because they don’t break down and remain in the environment essentially forever unless they are cleaned up. They have been found from Fairfield, Maine to Mt. Everest.

PFAs pose significant health risks, impact the immune system weakening response to vaccines and cause some types of cancer. Because sludge was allowed to be spread on farm fields PFAs now contaminate Maine soils and water. Ten years ago, I was treated for breast cancer the cause of which is unknown. Could it have been from exposure to PFAs in drinking water or from food or animals raised on contaminated fields? I will never know. But I do know that I do not want cancer again nor do I wish anyone to have it.

Farm raised animals, eggs and vegetables are not the only food sources contaminated with PFAs. In December 2021 the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife issued a deer hunting advisory to not eat venison harvested from deer taken in the Fairfield area as high levels of PFAs were found in deer from that area. Deer from other areas had not been tested as of December but I suspect PFAs will be found in wild animals

and fish from all areas of Maine. This not only affects the population of Maine but tourists as well, which in turn affects their health and our Maine economy.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I am motivated by the principles of my faith: The inherent worth and dignity of every person and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and I urge the committee to support LD1911.