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Kennebunk  
LD 1006

Defend Testimony  
LD 1006

Sponsored by Rep Pluecker

LD 1006 “An Act to Ensure Access to Healthy Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Maine”

Hello, thanks for having me, my name is Kate Manahan and I am the producer and host of a radio show and podcast about toxics. My most recent guest, Nik Charov of Wells Reserve, said that he thinks Mother Earth is as much an accountant as a nurturer. We cannot spend more than we have. And what we do has to add up!

I agree.

PFAS/forever chemicals have an accounting of their own, as well. They add up and add up, linger in our organs for decades, and there is no way yet to remove them from our bodies where there is often a sickening and cumulative effect for us all.

I am here to support LD 1006 because of its action for both health and social justice. We have all consumed and been exposed to PFAS, unwittingly, because of manufacturers who knew exactly what they were doing, but hid that from consumers so they could continue to rake in profits. But now the balance sheets need reckoning.

The medium and long-term economic benefits to investing in public health are profound and quantifiable. Preventing toxic exposure is always cheaper than the cost of medical care and lost productivity. And socially, we have an opportunity here to protect low-income communities, tribal communities, communities of color and rural communities who are more susceptible to health and financial impacts of PFAS contamination.

A note here, too, about children. Due to ratios and more rapid circulatory systems, they are always disproportionately exposed to toxics, which have a more substantial impact on developing bodies and brains than adults.

Right now, we know there are PFAS impacted drinking water wells that have not yet been identified. We need to ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking water, including children, low-income rural Mainers. The state can simply add the PFAS test to its existing list of subsidized water tests, like radon and arsenic. We have a pathway and can plug PFAS, these emerging contaminants, into our existing process for water testing in our state.

Please vote to support LD 1006 to ensure healthy drinking water. Let's skip the kidney cancer, low birthweight, immune suppression and all the other hazards that come from drinking PFAS contaminated water. In this case, a liquid ounce of prevention can protect rural Mainers drinking from household wells. The savings will contribute significantly to Maine's bottom line in terms of savings from health catastrophes avoided for years to come.

Thank you.