

RE: LD1006

Mr. Baldacci and Ms. Meyer and committee,

My name is Camille Porteous, and I am a sophomore at Colby College in Waterville studying biology and environmental science with a specific interest in public health. I am advocating in support of Maine LD1006: “An Act to Ensure Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing”. I am a firm believer that you should be able to know what you are consuming. Water is so vital to our health and we consume so much water everyday, that contaminated or unsafe water has extreme ramifications for our health and safety. Further, technology to test water already exists and is readily available, but insufficient funding and awareness has allowed issues of unsafe water to arise in Maine.

Fairfield, a town very close to my home in Waterville, has been shown to be highly contaminated with PFAS, an extremely toxic “forever chemical” that has been shown to be carcinogenic and linked to immune deficiencies. Recently found contaminations east and southwest of Fairfield show that we are just beginning to understand the potential for widespread water well contamination of PFAS. Maine has been a national leader on PFAS standards and regulation, but even more people will benefit from these protections if they actually know what is in their water.

Even with the ban on sludge spreading, the legacy of PFAS in Maine’s soil and groundwater will remain a problem for decades. Everyone has a right to clean water. Everyone has a right to know what they are drinking, and if they are inadvertently putting themselves at risk every time they have a sip of water, eat freshly washed vegetables, or take a shower. So, I urge you to take action to support LD1006.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

Camille Porteous

Colby College, Waterville