

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to

LD 75 - An Act to Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels Under the State's Drinking Water Rules to Prohibit Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

April 28, 2023

Sen. Baldacci, Rep. Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 75 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, the LPC provides direction to the advocacy team at MMA and establishes the position on bills of municipal interest.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed National Primary Drinking Water Regulations¹ that dictate the limits of contaminant levels in public drinking water. In Maine, the 130th Legislature passed LD 129 that set a maximum PFAS contaminant level at no more than 20 nanograms per liter. In LD 75, this PFAS contaminant level is changed to zero. This change gives local leaders some concern and they questioned if zero level is achievable and a feasible benchmark to have as a maximum contaminant level. According to the EPA's website (linked below), not one listed contaminant has a level of zero, albeit some very close to zero, and officials are a bit confused on the bill's intent.

Municipal leaders appreciate clarity in statute and take pride in providing their citizens with needed services that include access to safe public drinking water, where applicable. Having clear achievable standards is paramount to this effort and MMA would encourage the committee to be sure when deciding on where to set contaminant levels, that they use professionally relevant experts and keep an eye on feasibility.

Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective on this issue.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>