



**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
April 28, 2023**

In Support, LD 73 An Act to Require Bottled Water Companies to Monitor for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

In Opposition to LD 1248, An Act to Ensure the Quality of Bottled Water

Good morning, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for your service to the people of Maine. My name is Liz Donohue, and I am the Director of Government Relations at BlueTriton Brands, owner of Maine's iconic Poland Spring® brand. We take tremendous pride in the Poland Spring® brand, the hard work of our 900 Maine employees at our Hollis, Kingfield and Poland facilities, and in our springs. We sustainably source our water and conserve 6000 acres of land surrounding our 10 spring sites. In 2022 we donated 1 million bottles of water and \$1 million to community and educational organizations in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD 73 and in opposition to LD 1248. We applaud the Maine State Legislature for your leadership on the issue of PFAS. Like you, we at Poland Spring® take the issue of PFAS very seriously.

Bottled water is highly regulated as a food product and we support that. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulations, along with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, state regulations and industry standards, offer consumers assurance that the bottled water they purchase is stringently regulated, tested and of the highest quality.

In addition to ensuring compliance with federal standards, Poland Spring® takes great care in the purity of its bottled water. For these reasons, Poland Spring® has and will continue to test regularly for PFAS and other impurities. Since testing for PFAS became commercially available years ago, Poland Spring® has tested its bottled water products and put the results online for the public's review. Poland Spring follows the stringent industry standard set by the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) for all 18 PFAS compounds detected under EPA method 537.1 for bottled water products. Additionally, EPA has recently announced a stricter standard – 4 parts per trillion (ppt) which we support and will continue to meet. We anticipate FDA will also adopt this standard and we hope states will do the same to ensure uniformity across the country.

For more information about the purity of Poland Spring's bottled water product, see our annual [Bottled Water Quality Reports](#), which are publicly available [online](#). These reports include information on a number of potential minerals or contaminants that may be found in water and provides any detected levels of those impurities. You will see that our bottled water products meet, if not exceed, required state and federal standards – we will continue to proudly maintain this high level of quality.





While we do not believe LD 73 is necessary because federal and industry standards already ensure strict quality for finished bottled water products, we do not oppose the testing and reporting provisions contained in the bill and ask for some simple clarifying language in the legislation.

LD 1248 contains provisions which are both preempted by federal law and unworkable as a matter of practicality. As noted in other testimony today, the FDA has jurisdiction over product labels to ensure harmonization of information across the nation. The information on our labels is standardized - spring sources are included on the label as well as "traceability." This means that each bottle includes a production date, a manufacturing plant code, production line number, the time of production and a best buy date. Given the existing FDA requirements and transparency, we believe the labeling provisions of LD 1248 are an unnecessary overreach.

BlueTriton Brands, including the Poland Spring® team, goes to great lengths and takes great care to provide safe, high-quality bottled water products. We will continue to work to ensure the quality and safety of our bottled water products that our consumers have trusted for over 175 years. We look forward to continuing to be an important part of the fabric of Maine.

Thank you.

Liz Donohue

Director, Government Relations
BlueTriton Brands and Poland Spring



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