

**Testimony of Paul Schlein**  
**in opposition to LD 1960, “An Act to Support Farming in Maine by Extending the Deadline for**  
**Manufacturers of Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**  
**to Report on Those Products”**  
**addressed to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**  
**March 18, 2024**

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Paul Schlein, I reside in the Town of Arrowsic, I was the Public Information Officer for the Maine Board of Pesticides Control from 2005 to 2013, and I am writing to you to strongly urge your opposition to LD 1960, “An Act to Support Farming in Maine by Extending the Deadline for Manufacturers of Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Report on Those Products.”

PFAS were developed in the 1940s and, since then, 4,500 PFAS compounds have been developed, all supposedly to help and improve the lives of human beings. Since the 1980s, however, research has shown them to be associated with multiple, very serious chronic illnesses and cancers. In other words, they are carcinogenic. And yet we continue to use them extensively, in every possible form and for every use. And, they never go away. These toxic Forever Chemicals have insinuated themselves into every part of the Earth—land, sea, and air—and continually return from the atmosphere in rainwater everywhere on the Earth.

Fortunately, we live in Maine, and live up to our motto, *Dirigo*, and have taken the lead in making sure these Forever Chemicals are banned forever. However, most unfortunately, there are those who feel they need to maintain the right to continue PFAS use, because, without them, a tremendous burden will be placed on how they do their business.

Specifically, with respect to LD 1960, we’re talking about pesticides, where PFAS are added to the mix, to facilitate their use, extend shelf life, and make them more stable and effective. Excuse the vernacular, but huh?

First of all, pesticides in themselves are an even greater problem, and should be at the top of your list, but, knowing what we already know about PFAS, do we want to allow any continuation at all of these toxic substances? Among the many reasons not to support this bill is the fact that the “stability” of PFAS is what makes them Forever!

The Precautionary Principle dictates very simply: When in doubt, even lacking full scientific proof, don't do it.

The greatest irony here—at least the greatest I have ever seen—is in the bill title, which states LD 1960 is intended to “to support farming in Maine.” I ask you at this point to consider, and you know the answer to this much better than I, how many beautiful, wonderful, and productive farms have already been destroyed, and how many families' livelihoods ruined in Maine because of PFAS? Further, how is this affecting Maine’s economy and the public’s access to locally grown produce? This, I suspect, is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

Please give this your utmost attention and consideration and vote ONTP on LD 1960.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul

Paul Schlein  
Arrowsic, Maine