



February 6th, 2025

In Support of LD130: An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination

Chair Ross, Chair Pluecker, and distinguished members of the Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

My name is Jane Dawson, I grew up and still live in Pownal, Maine, and I am the Policy Director and a co-founder of Maine Youth Power. Maine Youth Power, is a statewide organization that works primarily with rural young people, advocating for a future in Maine where we can all continue to live and work. This legislation is critical to the health and safety of all Mainers, and of young Mainers in particular who will be living with the impacts of PFAS contamination for many years to come. It is for this reason that I ask you to vote **ought to pass** on LD 130, An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination.

As a leader in PFAS regulation Maine has an opportunity to better protect our land and water from further contamination. We rely so heavily on the continued use of these lands and waterways for sustenance and livelihood. As a young person I see this legislation as directly tied to young Mainers' abilities to continue to farm and fish in the place we call home.

At MYP I work with a base of over 1,500 young people and have seen first hand how important the issue of environmental protection and PFAS contamination is to rural young people across the state. This legislation would allow young people to more easily test their water and land for PFAS contamination, and ensure a healthier, safer environment for all Mainers. As we continue to learn more about the detrimental impacts of PFAS, I was to reiterate the impact that legislation such as this can have on Maine not just now, but for our future businesses, farms and natural spaces.

On behalf of young Mainers who want to continue to work and farm in the spaces they have grown up in, I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD130.

Thank you for continuing to lead the fight against PFAS contamination, and for protecting the future of Maine,

Sincerely,

Jane Dawson,
Policy Director, Maine Youth Power
jane@maineyouthpower.org