

Betsy Williams
Brunswick
LD 222

Senator Tepler, Senator Doudera and members of the Environment and Natural Resource Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 222 and the other PFAS bills that are presently before your committee (LD 400 and LD 407).

This is your asbestos moment.

A brief history: Asbestos, used for its fire-resistant qualities in building construction, began in 1897. A few short years later, in 1899, the first asbestos related disease (described as “curious bodies” in the lungs) was diagnosed. In 1935 the first cases of lung cancer attributable to asbestos were diagnosed.

For 40 years—from 1930 to 1970—asbestos continued to be used in home construction. Finally, in 1970, after thousands of children and adults suffered from its exposure, legislation ended that practice.

Your response to these PFAS related bills this session will be history making. Yes, our efforts to clean up this contagion and to replace it with non-toxic material will be challenging and expensive. But the very lives of your constituents depend on it.

Don’t let 40 years pass before the Maine State Legislature takes action to mitigate this poison in our environment. Please vote yes on LD 222 and other PFAS related bills, and make our response to this crisis a proud part of Maine’s history.

Thank you.