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As a resident of a rural Maine town, I do not have access to a public water system and rely on a well for all of my water needs. With the increase in the building and establishment of solar and wind energy facilities, I am concerned with the potential adverse impacts of chemicals leaching into the soil, as a result of solar and/or wind operations, and due to their unique chemical properties easily move into groundwater. My research has shown that my concerns are not unfounded. The potential for perfluoralkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which have been nicknamed 'forever chemicals', contamination is a huge concern. Due to the nature of these chemicals, they can travel long distances depending on the flow of the aquifer and potentially reach wells located far from their original contaminated sources causing further contamination. This is a potential health hazard to humans, water, soil, farmland, wells and wildlife. It should also be noted that remediation of contaminated areas can take anywhere from a few months to several years.

While the Bill as presented is a beginning, and I am pleased to see that my State Representative is taking steps to address the potential of PFAS in our soil, I feel the Effects of Determination need to be expanded upon to include cease of operation of the facility until full restoration of all impacted resources is confirmed through additional testing. I urge the Committee to pass this bill to protect the health of our residents, land, water and wildlife and vote "ought to pass".