

Isabella Pfankuch  
Orono  
LD 130  
Wednesday, March 5th, 2025  
132nd Maine Legislature, 2nd Regular Session

To: Committee Chair Senator Rachel Talbot Ross and the Honorable members of the committee

Re: Act to establish a PFAS response program and to modify the fund to address PFAS contamination. Regarding the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

My name is Isabella Pfankuch and I am a concerned Orono resident, and University of Maine Student. I am testifying about the act to establish a PFAS response program and to modify the fund to address PFAS contamination. There is a lack of regulated processing in regards to PFAS contamination. The lack of regulation leaves the environment and the residents of Orono at risk of contamination and negative environmental consequences.

As a former resident of Minnesota the spread of contaminants in watersheds has been a concern throughout my life. Coming from a culture that celebrates and is centered around our lakes; watershed contamination is a key concern. The threat of PFAS from firefighting foams, military bases, and processing facilities is a huge risk to our community and our environment. The quality and safety of our lakes and drinking water is not a concern that should be exacerbated, it affects every member of our community. Having studied an area that faced significant PFAS concerns due to runoff from a military base I learned how the PFAS can enter our ground and surface waters. This act to establish a PFAS response program and to modify the fund to address PFAS contamination will provide a basis for regulatory support of conservation efforts in regards to PFAS contamination. Providing a maximum for the PFAS levels in agricultural products and establishing baseline criteria for producers allows for less PFAS to enter our ecosystems. By modifying the funds available for addressing PFAS there is a chance to change the ownership of land contaminated by PFAS.

Thank you Honorable members of the committee; your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,

Isabella Pfankuch