

**Testimony by Deborah Burd, 19 Dodge Corner Road, Strong, Maine 04983 in opposition to Bills LD 827 and LD 987**

The amendments to the PFSA Products Law (LD 1503/LD 1537) took two years to be incorporated. The goal was to craft agreed upon exceptions for products that would be difficult to manufacture without products containing PFSA. That goal was accomplished. A first-in-the-nation law to phase out the use of PFAS in consumer products was passed and has become a national model.

During this period the cookware industry sat quietly. Now the manufacturers want to exempt PFAS-coated non-stick pans, farm and garden equipment, and artificial turf from Maine's regulations. As recently as this week the cookware industry has begun to lobby against the law stating that their products (coated pans, etc.) are safe under "normal conditions". They outline the conditions for safe use as follows: used under low to medium heat, never washed with abrasive cleaners, and never used with steel utensils. Most consumers do not follow these guidelines, and many use these pans in such a way that causes the coating to either flake off, introducing micro plastics into their systems or off-gassing occurs causing air born exposure. The factories making these chemicals have also caused pollution in nearby communities and drinking water. These chemicals are not compatible with the health and well-being of living organisms.

Maine has high levels of PFSA. The outcomes of years of study have resulted in the identification of these chemicals and in wildlife, drinking water, and human blood samples. Cancer causing chemicals have done enough damage to Maine and its citizens!

I urge you to oppose both of these two bills. The current level of toxicity in Maine is more than enough for the State and its citizens to manage!