

**Testimony before the
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Nora Bosworth
Conservation Law Foundation
April 09, 2025**

RE: Testimony in Support of LD 1177 – Resolve, Establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation of Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf

Good morning Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Nora Bosworth, and I am a Staff Attorney with the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). CLF's mission is to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and build healthy communities in Maine and throughout New England.

CLF enthusiastically supports LD 1177, which would place a 3-year moratorium on the installation of artificial turf while the environmental and public health consequences of this material are studied. Synthetic turf poses well-documented dangers to public health and our environment and is part of a larger plastics crisis that requires bold action.

Researchers know that artificial turf contains plastics and rubber that release carcinogens, neurotoxins, and endocrine disruptors.¹ These chemicals—including heavy metals, phthalates, volatile organic compounds, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”)—are widely recognized as hazardous to human health.² Kids who play on these surfaces are more exposed to these toxic chemicals through breathing them in, absorbing them through their skin, and ingesting turf particles. The chemicals also leach into the surrounding environment, with some studies finding higher levels of PFAS in waterbodies adjacent to artificial turf fields.³

We should be able to trust that our youth are doing something healthy for their bodies when engaging in recreational activities; instead, they are exposing themselves to chemicals that can increase their risk of cancer, reproductive harm, and immune disorders. Pausing the installation

¹ Pandora Dewan, *Your Kids Might Be Playing on Toxic Chemicals*, Newsweek (June 6, 2023), available at <https://www.newsweek.com/kids-playing-toxic-chemicals-artificial-turf-playgrounds-pollution-1804734#:~:text=In%20August%202022%2C%20Warner%2C%20who%20studies%20the%20impact,the%20impacts%20of%20artificial%20turf%20on%20human%20health.>

² *Id.*; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Institute for Exposomic Research, *Artificial Turf Health Risks*, available at <https://mountsinaiexposomics.org/artificial-turf/>.

³ *Id.*



of artificial turf to further research the documented and evolving body of evidence on its harms is in the best interest of Mainers and the environment.

Accordingly, we urge this committee to vote **ought to pass on LD 1177.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nora Bosworth", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

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