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Good Afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I am Christina Mitchell, Representative for District 110, an MSAD51 School Board member and also served on the Greely Turf Committee.

I am writing to provide information we, the committee learned while deliberating options for a school turf field. The committee started with the premise that the members would not accept a field option that included PFAS and heavy toxins. The other baseline understanding was that the current long time "natural" field needed to be mitigated, again, for the excessive high levels of arsenic, a legacy of the generations of apple orchards on that land.

We learned there are few alternatives to the vast majority of hazardous turf fields products. However, there is rapidly evolving technology in the field and there are healthier options, like microplastics filters, available. We believe we have found a turf product that has a place in Maine's cleaner, safer future. I am not inclined to single out and promote one company in testimony but I would ask you in your studies to look into the new, no-infill, no PFAS/CA Prop 65 turf that the MSAD51 Turf Committee and School Board approved.

Thanks for your time,
Christina