

Testimony of **Haydn Sage**

April 22, 2025

In support of LD 1326 (*An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances*)

Committee on Health And Human Services, Augusta, Maine

Senator Bennet, Representative Shagoury, and Committee members, thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Haydn Sage, and I live in Waterville, Maine. I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Government with an environmental science minor at Colby College. During my time at Colby, I have taken numerous classes on aqueous chemistry, and I've spent a lot of time learning about water contamination and the serious risks chemicals like PFAS pose to human health and the environment. This issue is personal to me.

I grew up hyper-aware of water contamination because my mom always made sure we had filtered water. We went from a Brita to a full gravity filtration system, and I never had to question if my water was safe to drink. I know that's a huge privilege—one that not everyone has, especially people in communities dealing with PFAS contamination. That's why I care so much about this bill.

PFAS chemicals are concerning because they don't break down, they spread incredibly easily, and they build up in our bodies over time. They've been linked to cancer, liver and heart dysfunction, immune suppression, hormone disruption, and even developmental issues in kids. The fact that nearly every American has detectable levels of PFAS in their blood is terrifying.

Even though there are some federal regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), they just don't go far enough. The Stockholm Convention has outright banned PFOS, PFOA, and PFHxS as Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Maine has already taken steps to phase out PFAS in food packaging, restrict their use in products, and ban land spreading of biosolids. This bill is the next logical step to protecting public health by setting enforceable contaminant limits for PFAS in drinking water.

As a student interested in environmental public health and someone who genuinely cares about access to clean water, I urge you to support this bill. No one should have to worry about whether the water coming out of their tap is slowly poisoning them. Maine has the opportunity to lead on this issue, and I hope you take it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Haydn Sage

References:

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