

**Testimony of
George Lapointe, Mayor, City of Hallowell
Before the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services
22 April 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 Perflouroakyl and Polyflouroalkyl Sustances

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am George Lapointe, Mayor of the City of Hallowell, Maine. I am here today testifying on my own behalf and not for Hallowell City Council. I am here testifying in favor of LD 1326, An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perflouroakyl and Polyflouroalkyl Sustances.

Like those in many Maine communities, residents of Hallowell have been concerned about PFAS and PFOS substances in our local water supply. The Hallowell Water District serves over 900 homes in Hallowell and draws it's water from two wells across the Kennebec River in Chelsea. The Hallowell Water District has been very proactive in addressing the PFAS/PFOS issue in testing water, testing technologies to remove PFAS/PFOS from the water supply, and in obtaining funding to put in a system wide filtration system. This process takes time to find the correct technologies and implement the appropriate filtration system.

While this work has been taking place, Hallowell Water District customers have expressed concern about the safety of our municipal water supply. This concern comes from test results showing actionable PFAS/PFOS levels, differing state and federal standards, and difficulties in communicating the situation and relative risk to Hallowell Water District water users.

The fear about what the PFA/PFOS levels mean to Hallowell Water District users, particularly young people, is real and was worsened by communication issues and action levels being different between state and federal standards.

The provisions of LD 1326 will help this situation as the Hallowell Water District, and other water supplies, work toward resolution. It will do this by ensuring that state and federal standards are consistent and requiring testing based on the levels of PFAS/PFOS found in water samples. The provisions of LD 1326 that allow the Department of Environmental Protection are also helpful in keeping on top of the ongoing PFAS/PFOS situation.

I understand that some people believe that LD 1326 isn't needed because these actions can be taken absent new legislation. However, codifying the provisions of LD 1326 in law will help with the concern, uncertainty, and fear that come from the PFAS/PFOS issue. I believe that LD

1326 will help ensure that Maine water district users throughout Maine know that their water is being tested and remedial action will be taken in a timely way.

For these reasons, I support LD 1326 because these provisions will help instill confidence in Maine municipal water districts by ensuring that testing and remedial actions are done transparently and in a timely way.

Thank you for your service to the State of Maine. While I am unable to be present for the hearing on LD 1326, I am happy to follow up on any questions that Committee members have.