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LD 1326

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

Greetings esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for taking my testimony today, on this auspicious 55th Earth Day.

I've lived in Fairfield and in Kennebunk, ME; two towns which have had to deal with PFAS water contamination, which is why this issue is particularly important to me. Across the board, I'm a big fan of laws that protect the health of the people. Citizens can't possibly be aware of all the colorless and orderless chemical threats in their environments in our high-tech world. It is a great responsibility government has to consider the public's health and make rules in the best interest of the people. And, what could be more fundamental than clean drinking water?

Today I am asking you to vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD1326 - An act to protect drinking water by setting a maximum level for PFAS contamination. (PFAS is the group of "Forever Chemicals" known to be terrifically persistent in our environment and in our bodies and it comes from man-made chemicals designed to be waterproof, greaseproof and fireproof). This class of chemicals stay in our bodies and wreak havoc on many of our systems: developmental, cardiovascular, liver, immune, endocrine, metabolic, reproductive, and musculoskeletal.

It is important today for Maine to codify a standard to protect against any possible weakening of the standards at the federal level. These limits are similar to the limits set by the EPA during their rule making process for PFAS in drinking water. Their limits are based on the best available science and research into the health impacts of PFAS.

Protecting our water sources from PFAS is a strategic move. It could reduce rates of cancer and liver disease, make children, infants and pregnancies safer. Protecting our population from chemical exposures is also a way to avoid costly medical bills, loss of income/productivity and death.

Here's to healthy lives, well-lived. That's what makes a strong citizenry. Safe drinking water is fundamental for thriving communities. All people in Maine should have access to clean, safe drinking water, free of toxic chemicals that pose a threat to public health.

For all of us, please vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD1326 - set maximum contamination levels of PFAS in drinking water to protect the people of Maine.

Thank you for looking out for us all.