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LD 1326

Please support LD 1326

We citizens must depend on our elected officials to protect our health. PFAS are now recognized as destructive and it is your duty to mitigate the harm. We're experiencing devastating results from PFAS contamination. Please do your job. Here's some info -

- PFAS pose significant health risks, including kidney cancer, reduced vaccine response, elevated cholesterol, reduced infant birth weight, and more. Low-income communities, communities of color, tribal, and rural communities are disproportionately impacted and more susceptible to health and financial impacts of PFAS contamination. Children are disproportionately exposed.
- Safe drinking water is fundamental to healthy people and thriving communities.
- All people in the Maine should have access to clean, safe drinking water, free of toxic chemicals that pose a threat to public health.
- PFAS exposure over a long period of time can cause cancer and other serious illnesses that decrease quality of life or result in death. PFAS exposure during critical life stages such as pregnancy or early childhood can also result in adverse health impacts.
- This legislation will significantly reduce the level of PFAS in drinking water across the state by establishing a long-term health-protective level for specific PFAS in drinking water.
- People will live longer, healthier lives because of this legislation. The EPA estimated that if similar levels were to be implemented nationally, it would reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million people served by public water systems.
- These levels could lead to lower rates of cancer and liver disease, reduced risks during pregnancy, and more and stronger and healthier children and infants. Some benefits include avoided costs of medical bills, income lost to illness, and death. Other health benefits that can't be quantified include developmental, cardiovascular, liver, immune, endocrine, metabolic, reproductive, musculoskeletal, and carcinogenic effects.
- These limits are similar to the limits set by the EPA during their rulemaking process for PFAS in drinking water. Their limits are based on the best available science and research into the health impacts of PFAS.
- Maine should codify these standards to protect against any possible weakening of the standards at the federal level.
- Water treatment technologies exist to remove PFAS from drinking water including granular activated carbon, reverse osmosis, and ion exchange systems. Public water systems can choose from multiple proven treatment options.
- According to the Maine CDC, there are currently 130 public water systems that have some individual results that exceed the proposed MCLs, including 68 systems exceeding the existing standard of 20 ppt. This includes over 50 Community Water Systems, 65 Schools, and 12 Daycares. This directly impact at least 161,000 in Maine who rely on public water for daily drinking and cooking.