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LD 493

Please support LD 493

The state's first duty is to ensure the safety of Mainers. It is not realistic for all landlords to have the ability to pay for testing of their wells. The state must step up to help.

- Toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or “forever chemicals” are used in thousands of everyday products and manufacturing processes. PFAS accumulate in our wastewater and can contaminate the land and groundwater from a variety of sources.

- 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.

- More than 50% of Mainers get their drinking water from residential wells, the highest in the nation.

- 27% of housing in Maine is rented. Statewide, nearly 1/3 of renters (29%) are serviced by a residential drinking water well.

- Currently, landlords are required to test for arsenic in wells that provide drinking water to tenants. Additionally, landlords are required to share the test results with the tenants within 10 days of the notification of the results.

- LD 493 adds PFAS and other contaminants such as lead, radon, and uranium to the list of contaminants that the landlord must test for and provide those results to tenants within 10 days of notification of the results. This information must be provided to both current and prospective tenants. Landlords are not required to treat the drinking water contamination under this bill.

- Tenants and future homeowners have a right to know what’s in their drinking water so they can protect themselves and their families from exposure to any contaminants in the water they drink.

- Additionally, LD 493 would require homeowners’ disclosure if a residential well has been tested for PFAS at the point of sale for homeowners selling their property. This is similar to the current requirement for disclosure of information regarding arsenic, radon and other testing for residential wells.

- For homeowners, disclosure of the date of the most recent water test, if any and whether the seller has experienced a problem such as an unsatisfactory water test is required when selling their home. [Link](#)

- If PFAS residential drinking water well contamination can be tied to sludge spreading through the state’s soil and groundwater investigation, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) may help cover the cost of treatment and provide filtration systems to ensure their drinking water is clean and safe. [Link](#)

- For landlords and homeowners who are income-eligible, there may be opportunities for remediation funding from the Maine Housing Authority through their Well Water Abatement program if contamination is found. [Link](#)