

April 27, 2025

RE: LD1604 *An Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Waters from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Landfill Leachate*

Dear Members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD1604, and Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Waters from PFAS from Landfill Leachate. I am writing to you as a resident of Old Town, a member of the public, and a health professional with 25 years of experience in reproductive health.

LD1604 will, if legislated, take an important first step towards reducing the burden of a highly toxic class of chemicals which are causing significant reproductive and other public health risks in Maine communities. Specifically, the bill will require the Department of Environmental Protection to finally set PFAS Standards for effluent discharge, setting the stage for testing and treating requirements. .

As the Committee is aware, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS are a toxic, man-made class of chemicals, commonly known as “forever chemicals,” which were created by chemical companies for things like non-stick coating or fire fighting foam. PFAS indefinitely linger in the air, water, and soil, and our bodies. PFAS exposure is linked to reproductive disorders, cancer, thyroid disorders, autoimmune disorders, liver damage, and more. There is no safe amount of PFAS exposure for humans or other living things, but general consensus is that risk can be reduced by preventing further discharge of PFAS into the environment, and detecting and treating PFAS contamination when it is found in contaminated water.

PFAS chemicals cannot be broken down or eliminated naturally in the environment, and therefore accumulate in fish, animals, and humans. Exposure causes serious reproductive harm, destroying egg- and sperm-producing cells in people, animals, birds, and fish; and disrupting hormone pathways and placental function necessary to support healthy pregnancy. Exposure occurs through many routes, including breathing smoke from waste fires, swimming in contaminated water, and eating plants, fish, and meat exposed to contaminated water or soil. The only way to mitigate harm is to avoid adding more poisons into the environment.

PFAS has been found in everyone one of Maine’s 25 landfills. As a Maine Department of Environmental Protection’s January 2024 [Report](#) to the legislature on *Testing of Landfill Leachate for PFAS* stated, “it is clear from the 25 landfills sampled that significant concentrations of PFAS are present at landfills and in landfill leachate that have the potential to impact groundwater or surface water in the vicinity of the landfills.” Landfill leachate is collected, then either treated on-site or transported to a wastewater treatment plant. While landfill leachate gets treated for some pollutants, it is not being treated for PFAS before getting discharged into Maine’s water ways.

LD 1604 will require testing of landfill leachate PFAS by independent testing programs on a regular basis with reports to Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection. We cannot prevent health risks that we do not know about. This requirement would ensure that the public is aware of what is being released from neighboring landfills, hold landfills accountable for what

they release and how it is treated LD1604 would also allow testing of private drinking water sources, when requested, at the cost of those who generate the leachate, rather than the public who bear the unanticipated risks of having contaminated drinking water.

As a reproductive health provider, the cumulative environmental and reproductive health risks of PFAS exposure are truly terrifying. The only solution is to mitigate risk is to prevent their release into the environment, and to contain and treat wherever possible. The days of dilution and forgetting about pollution are clearly over. I urge you to pass LD 1604 as this bill supports critical infrastructure needed to protect the public and other living things from the unmitigated and untracked release of PFAS into the community.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daisy Goodman', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Daisy Goodman  
Old Town, ME

#### References

1. Brittany P. Rickard, Imran Rizvi, Suzanne E. Fenton. Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and female reproductive outcomes: PFAS elimination, endocrine-mediated effects, and disease, *Toxicology*, 2022;465:153031. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tox.2021.153031>.
2. Shi W, Zhang Z, Li M, Dong H, Li J. Reproductive toxicity of PFOA, PFOS and their substitutes: A review based on epidemiological and toxicological evidence. *Environ Res.* 2024;250:118485. [https://doi: 10.1016/j.envres.2024.118485](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2024.118485).