

**Jonathan Helstrom**  
General Manager  
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Water Superintendent  
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Wastewater Superintendent



## **Caribou Utilities District**

Water & Wastewater  
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Trustees  
**Gary Aiken**  
President  
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Treasurer  
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**Jay Kamm**  
**Matthew Till**

April 29, 2025

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

### **Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,**

I am writing on behalf of the Caribou Utilities District (CUD) to express opposition to Maine LD 1604, "An Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Waters from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Landfill Leachate." While we understand the importance of protecting our water sources from contamination, we believe that the state of Maine is already at the forefront of PFAS monitoring.

**Discharge Limits for PFAS:** Establishing an arbitrary date of June 1, 2026, for the DEP to set limits for PFAS could unintentionally lead to non-science-based limits. Additionally, this is concerning because landfills cannot simply stop producing leachate if they can't meet the discharge action level. Like wastewater treatment plants throughout the state, landfills are required to manage PFAS contamination that was not created by our actions but rather by treating wastewater and disposing of solid waste from our communities that contain PFAS. Currently, there is no cost-effective or scalable technology available to remove PFAS from wastewater.

**Quarterly Testing of Landfill Leachate for PFAS:** It is well-documented that PFAS is found in landfill leachate, and additional quarterly sampling of leachate is not necessary. This additional testing is an expense that provides little benefit.

**Testing of Private Water Supplies for PFAS:** Requiring landfills to test homeowners' wells gives the impression that if PFAS is found in an abutter's well, it originated from the landfill. It would be difficult to determine if PFAS discovered in a residential well originated from the homeowner's septic tank or internal home plumbing contamination.

In conclusion, while we support efforts to protect our water sources, we believe that Maine LD 1604 imposes unnecessary and burdensome requirements on wastewater dischargers and landfill operators. We urge you to reconsider the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Helstrom', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Jonathan Helstrom  
General Manager