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**Testimony in Opposition to LD 1982**

Representative Doudera, Senator Tepler, and distinguished Environment and Natural Resources Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I stand before you in strong opposition to LD 1982, which seeks to alter Maine's scientifically sound definition of PFAS chemicals.

Maine's current definition—identifying PFAS as chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom—is not an outlier. It aligns with definitions used by 24 other states, the Department of Defense, and Congress. This definition has been endorsed by over 150 non-industry scientists and is consistent with the internationally recognized standard from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which was developed by a diverse group including EPA scientists and even industry representatives.

The Department of Environmental Protection is currently implementing the PFAS products law that this very committee carefully crafted. Changing the definition now would create unnecessary confusion and disrupt this implementation process, wasting valuable resources and time already invested.

Let's be clear about what this bill represents: yet another attempt by industry to circumvent regulations. Last session, this committee spent countless hours amending the PFAS products law to accommodate industry concerns, including a process for "unavoidable use" designations. Rather than working within this established framework, proponents of this bill seek to redefine the problem away.

Narrowing the definition would create dangerous regulatory gaps. Trifluoroacetic acids (TFAs), which account for 52% of PFAS in our atmosphere according to EU data, could escape regulation. These persistent chemicals wash into our water supplies through rainfall, can't be easily removed, and harm aquatic life.

Emerging PFAS trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) is rapidly contaminating European food supplies, with recent studies showing modern wines containing an average of 121 micrograms per liter while pre-1988 wines had zero detectable levels. This persistent contaminant, which causes liver damage in animals and developmental toxicity in embryos, already accounts for over 90% of PFAS detected in some European drinking water sources and frequently appears alongside high pesticide residues in agricultural products. As TFA continues spreading through water systems and contaminating everything from wine to produce to meat, it poses a growing health threat that exceeds Germany's drinking water guidance value of 60 µg/L, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive PFAS regulation.

The proposed definition would also exclude many fluoropolymers like PTFE (Teflon). The manufacturing of these substances is responsible for an estimated 80% of historical PFAS environmental contamination. These products use chemicals like PFOA and GenX in their production—substances linked to serious health conditions—and PTFE itself has been associated with male fertility issues.

Maine has established itself as a leader in protecting its citizens from these "forever chemicals." We should not retreat from this position to satisfy out-of-state corporate interests at the expense of our health and environment.

I urge you to reject LD 1982 and maintain Maine's scientifically sound, comprehensive approach to regulating this dangerous class of chemicals. Thank you.