

Jennifer Navarro
Brunswick
LD 2115

Testimony in Support of LD 2115
An Act To Protect Wells From Hazardous Substances
Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Submitted by: Jennifer Navarro
Brunswick, Maine Homeowner and Private well with increasing NeTFosa and PFOS contamination.

Senator, Representative, and Members of the Committee,
My name is Jennifer Navarro and I live in Brunswick, Maine on a private well. I am writing in strong support of LD 2115.

This bill addresses a gap that families like mine live with every day: when contamination affects private wells outside of agricultural sludge programs, there is no clear, rapid, reliable mechanism to respond to the real-world costs that fall immediately on homeowners.

Private well families are not theoretical stakeholders. We are the ones drinking the water, bathing our children in it, cooking with it, and trying to make health decisions without institutional support. When contamination is discovered — whether PFAS or other hazardous substances — the burden is instant and personal. Testing, filtration, bottled water, plumbing changes, system maintenance, and ongoing monitoring quickly become a financial and emotional strain.

LD 2115 recognizes that environmental incidents do not stay neatly contained within property lines or permit boundaries. When contamination spreads, it becomes a public health issue, even if the impacted well is privately owned. The proposed DEP rapid response fund is a practical, humane solution that bridges the dangerous time gap between discovery of contamination and long-term regulatory or legal resolution.

From a public policy standpoint, this bill does three critical things:

1. It protects public health at the point of exposure.

Private wells serve thousands of Maine households. When contamination occurs, families cannot wait months or years for liability determinations while continuing to use compromised water.

2. It recognizes that environmental response is a state responsibility, not just an individual burden.

Contamination events often stem from broader environmental conditions, legacy uses, or complex industrial and infrastructure systems. Individual homeowners do not have the tools, authority, or resources to manage that alone.

3. It creates equity between municipal and private water users.

Public water systems have regulatory oversight, testing requirements, and response frameworks. Private well users — many of whom live in rural or semi-rural areas — should not be left without comparable protection simply because of geography.

This bill does not replace accountability for polluters. Instead, it ensures that families are not forced to bear immediate costs while those processes unfold. That is both fiscally sensible and morally sound.

For communities like Brunswick, which have already experienced the long-term consequences of contamination and environmental legacy issues, LD 2115 represents preparedness, not panic. It means Maine is learning from experience and building a structure that allows the state to act quickly when the next incident occurs anywhere.

Clean drinking water is not optional. It is foundational to health, dignity, and stability in our homes. LD 2115 is a responsible step toward ensuring that when wells are affected, families are not left on their own.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Navarro
Brunswick, Maine