

An Act to Protect Private Wells from Hazardous Substances  
LD 2115 – Sponsored by Representative Ankeles

Testimony in Support of Investing in PFAS Prevention and Public Health

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.

I'm offering testimony both as a professional who works closely with Maine people with neurodegenerative illnesses, and as someone who cares deeply about the long-term health and economic vitality of our state.

The medium and long-term economic benefits of investing in public health are enormous. Preventing toxic exposure is always far less costly than paying for years—or decades—of medical care after harm has already occurred. When Mainers are healthy, our communities are more productive, our healthcare systems are less strained, and families are more financially secure.

PFAS chemicals pose serious and well-documented health risks. These include kidney cancer, reduced vaccine response, elevated cholesterol, reduced infant birthweight, and other chronic conditions. What makes PFAS especially concerning is that there is currently **no approved medical procedure** to remove these chemicals from a person's body. Once exposed, PFAS can linger in the blood and organs for decades.

As a result, medical care related to PFAS exposure focuses almost entirely on identifying and stopping the source of exposure—not on curing the problem. That reality makes prevention not just the humane choice, but the fiscally responsible one.

The burden of PFAS contamination does not fall evenly. Low-income communities, communities of color, tribal communities, and rural communities are disproportionately impacted and often more vulnerable to both the health and financial consequences. Children are also disproportionately exposed, which raises profound concerns about lifelong health effects and long-term costs to families and the state.

I also want to emphasize that this bill does not disrupt or reduce any existing PFAS programs. It takes over the “Land Application Contaminant Monitoring” program, which was never used and never funded. As such, it will not affect current testing, remediation, or response efforts already underway.

This is a smart, preventive step forward. It protects public health, reduces future medical costs, and supports a healthier, more resilient Maine.

Thank you for your time and for your thoughtful consideration.

Please vote for LD 2115 to protect private wells from hazardous substances.

Kathryn Manahan  
Kennebunk  
LD 2115

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