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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Testimony of Senate President Mattie Daughtry in support of
LD 2115, “An Act to Protect Private Wells from Hazardous Substances.”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
January 28, 2026**

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23, including Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I am honored to testify in favor of LD 2115, “An Act to Protect Private Wells from Hazardous Substances.”

Clean air and water are not just environmental issues—they are the foundation of our health and well-being. Access to safe, reliable drinking water is essential to life itself. When our water is contaminated, it threatens everything from our families’ health to the economic vitality of our communities. Protecting our water is protecting the people of Maine.

The Maine DEP estimates that 50% of Mainers get their water from private groundwater wells. Our water is a point of state pride, some of the best in the nation. That’s half of our state—families, seniors, farmers, and small businesses—depending on water that is directly tied to their health and safety. Our water is a point of pride for Maine, and we have a responsibility to ensure that every Mainer can trust the water coming from their tap or well.

My own constituents are already dealing with the impacts of ground water contamination, made so much more severe by the 2024 spill. This bill will support my community’s recovery from that situation. It does so by providing funding for private drinking water wells impacted by hazardous substances – including PFAS. Funding that may be used for testing, remediation, the installation and maintenance of filter treatment systems, connection to local water district networks and the provision of bottled drinking water.

Without support, the costs of remediation and the long-term health impacts fall entirely on individuals and families—many of whom are already struggling. This is not just an environmental or public health issue; it is an affordability and fairness issue. No Mainer should have to choose between paying for clean water and paying for other basic necessities.

I urge this committee to support LD 2115, “An Act to Protect Private Wells from Hazardous Substances.” Our communities cannot afford to delay in taking these steps. Every day we wait, Mainers are exposed to substances that threaten their health, their homes, and their peace of mind. This bill is a practical, necessary, and urgent measure to ensure that every Mainer has safe water to drink. Thank you.