



Henry L. Ingwersen  
Senator, District 32

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
131st Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony in Opposition to LD 1214**

Testimony of Senator Henry Ingwersen  
In Opposition to LD 1214 “An Act to Clarify the Laws to Combat Perfluoroalkyl and  
Polyfluoroalkyl Substances”  
Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
April 26, 2023

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Senator Henry Ingwersen, and I represent Senate District 32, including the City of Biddeford and the towns of Lyman, Dayton, Hollis, and Arundel. I am before you today to present and speak in opposition to LD 1214 “An Act to Clarify the Laws to Combat Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.”

I am in opposition to this proposed legislation for a couple of very important reasons. First, LD 1214 proposes to change the definition of PFAS. Maine’s current definition is not only in LD 1503, the products ban bill, but is also the consistent definition used in a bill to test farmland, the sludge ban bill, and in our current drinking water standards bill. The definition proposed in LD 1214 leaves out a whole host of harmful chemicals, including several PFAS, adjuvants, and precursors. This new definition means that several toxic PFAS could still be used in products. Maine is not the only state that utilizes our current statutory definition of PFAS. There are at least 18 other states that do so. As a quick example of the problems with the definition proposed in 1214 - production of another dangerous PFAS, PFOA, was terminated in the U.S. after the EPA pressured chemical manufacturers to move to safer alternatives. DuPont’s replacement for PFOA is the new PFAS chemical known as GenX which has been identified as a severe toxicant which impacts the liver, kidneys, immune system, the development of offspring and an association with various cancers. It is the major source of contamination in the Cape Fear area of North Carolina. Based on this toxicity, EPA released a draft lifetime health advisory for GenX in drinking water of only 10 parts per trillion based on the severe health risk presented by GenX. GenX is also included in EPA’s proposed national drinking water standard for PFAS. GenX’s chemical structure contains multiple fluorinated carbon atoms, but they don’t sit right next to each other – they are not *sequential*, in the language of LD 1214. Under the proposed definition, Maine DEP would lose the ability to track GenX.

This bill also eliminates the main provision of LD 1503, which is meant to reduce the sources of PFAS in the state. Considering the amount of contamination that the state is currently struggling with, and the more than \$100M in tax dollars we are utilizing to clean up the contamination, we need to do all we can to prevent further contamination. This means we need to reduce the sources of PFAS here in the state. Getting rid of LD 1503 will continue to

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*Proudly representing Senate District 32: Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, Lyman*



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allow toxic PFAS to be utilized in the state, which means more contamination and more tax dollars used to remediate the problem. Not to mention the severe health impacts on those who are dealing with the contamination and the burden on their families. Maine may have been the first state to pass legislation to ban all non-essential uses of PFAS in products but we will not be the last. As we speak, Michigan and Minnesota both have legislation making their way through their respective legislatures that follows Maine's lead on this issue and other states will follow. Industry would be well-served to work with the state of Maine to move away from these toxic chemicals so they are prepared as other states follow.

It is for these reasons that as a legislator, a Maine citizen, and a neighbor to a farm family whose lives, health, and livelihoods have been devastated by these terrible forever chemicals, I ask you to join me in opposing LD 1214.

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