

**Testimony of Adam Nordell – Defend Our Health
In OPPOSITION to LD 1214 “An Act to Clarify the Laws to Combat Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl
Substances Contamination”**

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Adam Nordell. I am a campaign manager for Defend Our Health and a PFAS impacted farmer. I submit this testimony in opposition to LD 1214.

In the past several years, your committee has helped make Maine a national leader in the fight against PFAS contamination. As a state we have invested significant resources into the safety of our drinking water and our food supply. We have made incredible strides towards preventing future PFAS contamination in Maine by passing LD 1503 and LD 2019. These bills give DEP the authority regulate products whose frivolous use of PFAS currently expose Mainers to these persistent, toxic chemicals. LD 1214 seeks to undermine these two landmark bills and our fight for a safer, healthier Maine.

The alternate PFAS definition in LD 1214 would shield a vast array of problematic, high production PFAS from DEP’s regulatory process and enable chemical manufacturers to continue selling PFAS laden products in Maine. This bill would shield from regulation the PFAS ‘GenX,’ which the EPA has identified as highly toxicⁱ and is considering listing as a hazardous substance under the Superfund Law. LD 1214 would shield from regulation PFAS refrigerants, some of which are 10,000 times more potent greenhouse gasses than carbon dioxide. It would shield from regulation fluoropolymers and precursors which transform into PFAS chemicals like PFOA and PFOS inside the products in our homesⁱⁱ, at our wastewater treatment plantsⁱⁱⁱ, inside the soil on our farms^{iv}, and even inside our bodies^v. All of these PFAS chemicals have at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom. All of them are persistent, mobile in the environment and toxic to human health. If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, let me tell you, it’s a duck.

Since I discovered the contamination of my farm last year, I’ve had the opportunity to meet people who have been exposed to these chemicals across the country. Some of them are farmers like me. Some of them have drinking water that has been poisoned by firefighting foam. Some of them live downstream from chemical manufacturing facilities. The universal request of PFAS impacted communities is this: “Regulate these chemicals as a class. Don’t place all of your focus on the ‘legacy PFAS’ like PFOS and PFOA that have been phased out of production. Work to protect us from being further exposed to the dangerous newer, understudied PFAS.

I am incredibly grateful for all of the work the legislature has done to assess Maine’s historic PFAS contamination, to clean things up where ever possible, and to support our impacted communities. We can’t add to the size of this problem right as we start to clean it up. We need to stand by our commitment to broad PFAS source reduction and keep our PFAS definition intact.

I urge you to vote ‘Ought Not to Pass’ on LD 1214. Thank you for your time.

Adam Nordell. Defend Our Health, Portland, ME.

ⁱ <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/human-health-toxicity-assessments-genx-chemicals>

ⁱⁱ <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.estlett.2c00926>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2021/em/d1em00032b/unauth>

^{iv} link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40726-020-00168-y

^v <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749122006923>