



Henry L. Ingwersen  
Senator, District 32

THE MAINE SENATE  
131st Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Testimony of Representative Bill Pluecker Presenting*  
**LD 1006, An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells  
in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Friday, April 28, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Sen. Henry Ingwersen and I represent District 32, which includes the York County municipalities of Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, and Lyman. I'm here to present on behalf of the bill sponsor, Rep. Bill Pluecker, L.D. 1006 "An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing," of which I am a cosponsor.

We have all heard the stories about wells contaminated by PFAS across the state. This committee has heard several pieces of legislation over the past few years that have dealt with the issue of PFAS contamination of drinking water. Over the past 4 years we have learned a lot about the PFAS contamination across Maine and the significant health risks associated with exposure to these "forever chemicals." These toxic chemicals have polluted our farmland and drinking water throughout the state.

Much of the contamination across the state is due to the application of PFAS-contaminated sludge on farmland. For those with residential wells that are contaminated due to this sludge spreading, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is helping with the cost of testing and remediation. But sludge spreading is not the only source of contamination. Other sources could include AFFF firefighting foam, which can end up in our aquifers during firefighter training or other firefighter maneuvers. Leachate from landfills can pollute groundwater as can effluent being discharged from municipalities and industries across the state. PFAS is ubiquitous and highly mobile, making it easy to contaminate drinking water.

Public water supplies in Maine and those community water sources that service schools and daycares will test and treat for PFAS. But many Maine households do not get their drinking water from public water supplies; they rely on residential wells. Maine is the state with the highest residential well water use, with more than half of the population relying on well water for their everyday use. With PFAS testing cost being prohibitively expensive, \$250-300 for a DEP certified approved test, we need to make sure that everybody relying on well water can rest assure that they are not drinking PFAS contaminated water and impacting the health of their family. Currently, the state has a program that helps low-income Mainers pay for water testing for arsenic and other contaminants. PFAS is not included on that list of contaminants. LD 1488 will require the Department to add PFAS to the list of contaminants it covers the

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



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cost of testing for when helping low-income Mainers test their wells. It is a very straightforward bill to provide much needed assistance to make sure that low-income Mainers have safe drinking water.

Thank you.

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