



Megan Hannan, Executive Director  
Maine Community Action Partnership  
176 Washington St.  
Bath ME 04530  
207-831-9893

Jason Parent, CEO/Executive Director  
Arroostook County Action Program, Inc.  
771 Main St.  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
207-764-3721

James Martin, CEO  
Community Concepts, Inc.  
240 Bates Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
207-739-6553

Rebecca Palmer, Executive Director  
Downeast Community Partners  
248 Bucksport Road  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
207-610-5904

Suzanne Walsh, CEO  
Kennebec Valley Community Action Program  
97 Water Street  
Waterville, ME 04901  
207-859-1579

Claire Berkowitz, President & CEO  
Midcoast Maine Community Action  
34 Wing Farm Parkway  
Bath, ME 04530  
207-442-7963

Joe Everett, President & CEO  
Opportunity Alliance  
50 Lydia Lane  
South Portland, ME 04106  
207-523-5055

Kara Hay, President & CEO  
Penquis  
262 Harlow St.  
Bangor, ME 04402  
207-973-3500

Donna Kelley, President & CEO  
Waldo Community Action Partners  
9 Field St.  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-6809

Jim Trundy, Executive Director  
Western Maine Community Action, Inc.  
1A Church St.  
East Wilton, ME 04234  
207-743-7763

Carter Friend, Executive Director  
York County Community Action Corporation  
6 Spruce St.  
Sanford, ME 04073  
207-324-5762

## Maine Community Action Partnership Supports LD 1488 An Act Concerning Testing for and Disclosure of PFAS Contamination of Residential Drinking Water Wells

April 28, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Megan Hannan, Executive Director of the Maine Community Action Partnership, the membership organization of the ten Community Action Agencies in Maine, and we support LD 1488 An Act Concerning Testing for and Disclosure of PFAS Contamination of Residential Drinking Water Wells.

Our state's greatest resource is our people, and our state's policies shape people's possibilities. In Community Action, we create conditions that invite children to learn and adults to apply their skills, tapping into the hidden potential in our communities. Through our Whole Family approach, we build a family's capacity for sustained stability and economic growth. We invest in the family's well-being, we let them drive their own story, and we have tangible success.

As these families fulfill their promise, they can run into unintended consequences of policies enacted in good faith, before we learned more about what we were using to produce everyday products and to reuse products as a solution to another problem. This has happened many times in our recent history: widely used lead paint; carcinogens in gasoline, cigarettes and even some preserved foods; and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in sludge used to fertilize home gardens and farms. In each case, we did what we thought was best at the time.

Times change, we know more about these chemicals and their harmful effects. While we still use gasoline every day, we are using less and less; we do not smoke tobacco in public places. In the case of PFAS, we cannot see it or smell it, but tested water shows it in over 380 residential drinking water wells in 22 Maine towns near known contamination sites; and 25 Maine schools, impacting up to 6,650 children, from unknown sites. That means on the order of nearly 10,000 people, that we know of, including many children, are being poisoned every time they have a drink of what should be life affirming water.

LD 1488 simply adds PFAS testing to the already accepted list of common contaminants in well water that DHHS requires landlords must test and disclose before renting. In Maine, 27% of housing is rented; of that, nearly 1/3 use a well for water. The cost of testing and remediation is much less than the public health cost of PFAS, and the other harmful contaminants, resulting from human consumption.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Megan Hannan  
[mhannan@mecap.org](mailto:mhannan@mecap.org)  
207.831.9893