



Henry L. Ingwersen
Senator, District 32

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Henry Ingwersen in introducing LD 130, "*An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination*"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
February 6, 2025

Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and fellow members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee, I am Senator Henry Ingwersen, representing Senate District 32: Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, and Lyman, and I'm here before you today to present LD 130 - An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination.

First, I want to thank the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry for asking me to sponsor this important Department bill. Since 2017, I've been working alongside many others on the fight against PFAS contamination in our water, food, and soils here in Maine, and so I'm honored to be able to introduce this legislation.

As this committee knows well, over the last few years, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry has built a program to assist farmers impacted by the "forever chemical" PFAS. In the 2021 biennial budget, language was included and voted through by the legislature requesting DACF to "strategically and effectively respond to PFAS concerns and issues as they arise." The department has been doing that by setting up the PFAS Response Program to help commercial farmers deal with PFAS contamination, and with the support of this committee, the legislature and many others, has created a Maine PFAS Response Program unmatched among all the other states.

LD 130 puts into statute what already exists, but it also structures the next evolution of PFAS response to assist farmers and improve public health and awareness. The PFAS Response Program will provide support to affected commercial farms, support critical PFAS research, and allow for the department to strategically and effectively respond to PFAS concerns and issues as they arise. The program also includes establishing maximum PFAS levels in farm products in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to be done through a public rulemaking process. The program may provide testing, support and technical and financial assistance to PFAS-impacted farmers while establishing baseline criteria for producers to adhere to for the receipt of such assistance.

There's more to this bill, but I will leave the details to the Department staff who will follow me, and you will likely want to direct your questions to them. Thank you.

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