



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Art Bell in SUPPORT of:

LD 222: An Act to Establish a Take-back and Disposal Program for Firefighting and Fire-suppressing Foam to Which Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Have Benn Added

LD 400: Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshall to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate

Before the Environment & Natural Resources Committee ... February 26, 2025

Good morning Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and fellow colleagues of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee. My name is Art Bell, and I represent House District #103, Yarmouth.

Maine, like the rest of our country (and our planet) has a PFAS crisis. Toxic PFAS are contaminating our environment and threatening public health throughout our society, ranging from agriculture to consumer goods. Maine has been a national leader in preventing and addressing contamination from PFAS. Recognizing the dire impacts of these toxic chemicals in our environment, Maine has acted to phase out PFAS, including banning the use of firefighting foam that contains PFAS.

LD 222 would provide funding and resources to allow the safe removal and eventual disposal of harmful aqueous film-forming (AFFF). LD 400 would establish an inventory of public & private locations that contain AFFF throughout Maine.

These two bills will work together to enable Maine to both assess the scope of the problem across the state AND provide a funding resource to safely remove and dispose of these harmful substances.

I urge the Committee to vote "OUGHT to PASS" for both LD 222 & LD 400.