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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

In Support of

*LD 222, An Act to Establish a Take-back and Disposal Program for
Firefighting and Fire-suppressing Foam to Which
Perflouroalkyl and Polyflouroalkyl Substances Have Been Added*

February 26, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 222 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

In January of 2020, the Maine PFAS Task Force, established by executive order in March of 2019, released a final report which included recommendations from the Class B Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) Working Group. Included in those recommendations was the establishment of state level funding mechanisms to execute a takeback and/or replacement program for AFFF.

Municipal officials support this measure and appreciate any action that could relieve municipalities of the burden of storing PFAS containing AFFF on municipal property.

In addition to the proposed takeback program, local officials would encourage the committee to also consider the need for municipal liability protections like those being considered at the federal level. Property taxpayers should not bear the financial burden of costly litigation due to PFAS contamination that may have resulted in previously approved usage of AFFF in their communities.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the MMA Advocacy team with any questions relating to municipal operations.