

Testimony of Charlie Anderson
**In Opposition to LD 827 An Act To Allow The Sale Of Polymer-Coated Cookware That Is
Authorized For Food Contact By The United States Food And Drug Administration**
Before the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine Legislature, Augusta, ME
March 17, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony. My name is Charlie Anderson and I am a senior at Colby College in Waterville Maine, where I study Government and Environmental Policy. This spring I'm taking a class on *Pollution and Human Health*, and after learning about how dire the effects of PFAS contamination are on our bodies and the environment, I've become inspired to take action. LD 827 resonates with me in particular because cooking is one of my favorite hobbies and upon learning about the dangers of PFAS contamination, I have stopped using nonstick cookware whenever I can. I always try to educate my friends and family on the dangers of using these pans. This is why we must do everything we can to protect all consumers, home cooks, and anyone else who would be exposed to the PFAS chemicals through cookware.

I am testifying today in opposition to LD 827 because PFAS chemicals have no place in our bodies and thus, they should not exist in the cookware we use every day. The PFAS products law is revolutionary and helps protect people from these toxic chemicals, yet the bill being discussed today will weaken these protections. While LD 827 only seeks to provide exemptions for polymer-coated durable items authorized by the FDA, the FDA's standards for ensuring our safety from these chemicals are far behind many states and the EU. Including Maine, Colorado, Minnesota, Connecticut, and Rhode Island already ban PFAS in cookware. Voting LD 827 to pass would set Maine behind. The state must step up and continue to be a role model in the fight to protect Americans from chemical pollution, rather than cower at the threats from a powerful cookware industry.

While the fluoropolymers used in nonstick cookware are relatively stable, they break down into harmful PFAS chemicals when exposed to heat. Furthermore, PFAS chemicals are released into the environment during every stage of a pan's life cycle. Lohmann et al. find that the production of fluoropolymers is linked to widespread PFAS pollution and thus should not be classified as "low concern" polymer.¹ Furthermore, the high temperatures that pans are routinely exposed to during regular use cause PFAS to leach into food. There are also challenges with the safe disposal of cookware in order to prevent further environmental harm from fluoropolymer chemicals.² To protect ourselves, our families, and our friends, we must move towards stronger regulations on the use of dangerous chemicals in our cookware.

Please vote *ought not to pass* on LD 827. Thank you.

References

^{1,2} Lohmann, Rainer, et al. “Are Fluoropolymers Really of Low Concern for Human and Environmental Health and Separate from Other PFAS?” *Environmental Science & Technology*, vol. 54, no. 20, 12 Oct. 2020, pp. 12820–12828, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.0c03244>.