



**KWD**  
Kennebec Water District  
SINCE 1899

April 14, 2025

Honorable Denise Tepler, Chair  
Honorable Victoria Doudera, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Maine State Legislature  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

***Re: Testimony Neither for nor Against LD 1111 An Act to Provide Water Service Infrastructure to Fairfield Residents Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances***

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resource:

My name is Roger Crouse, and I serve as the General Manager for Kennebec Water District (KWD) in Waterville. KWD delivers drinking water to more than 22,000 people in the greater Waterville area including the communities of Waterville, Winslow, Fairfield, Benton, and Vassalboro. We also wholesale water to Maine Water Company which serves Oakland.

I am present today to provide testimony neither for nor against LD 1111 which would provide \$10 million to KWD to expand water service in areas of Fairfield, Maine impacted by per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

KWD treats and delivers water from China Lake to approximately 9,000 customers in the greater Waterville area including over 1,400 customers in Fairfield. The geographic area served in Fairfield by KWD is only a small portion of the total land area of the Town. Residents and businesses in the rural area of the Town are generally served by private wells due to the low density of development.

KWD's water treatment plant can produce up to 12 million gallons of potable water per day. However, our average daily demand is closer to 4 million gallons per day. Consequently, KWD has the capacity to serve many more customers.

Low density areas are often not served by public water utilities because the limited revenue generally does not support the cost of expansion and the ongoing operational costs. Grants can offset the initial investment cost but, depending on the number of customers, the annual operating costs may exceed the income received. Additionally, low water usage can result in stagnant water that may have an adverse impact on water quality. Consequently, an expansion plan will need to carefully consider the expansion priorities, the available resources, the cost implications on existing customers, and possible impacts on water quality.

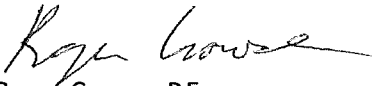
KWD staff provided input on the expansion plan developed by the Town of Fairfield in 2022. The estimated cost of Phase 1 of the proposed expansion included 4.5 miles of new water main at a cost of approximately \$10 million. The total project cost of the three phases was nearly \$50 million.

PFAS contamination not only has impacted private well owners in Fairfield but has also impacted KWD's source of supply, China Lake. KWD is working with a consultant to evaluate treatment options and cost implications.

If LD 1111 is passed, we look forward to working with the Town of Fairfield to utilize these grant dollars to benefit the property owners impacted by PFAS while minimizing the financial impact on existing ratepayers and maintaining high water quality.

Thank you for your time.

Yours for safe drinking water,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Crouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Roger Crouse, P.E.  
General Manager