



Henry L. Ingwersen  
Senator, District 32

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Co-sponsor testimony of Senator Henry Ingwersen in support of*  
**LD 500, An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

April 22, 2025

Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Senator Henry Ingwersen, and I represent Senate District 32, which includes Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis & Lyman. I'm here to voice my strong support for **LD 500**, "*An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing.*"

Maine has been dealing with a PFAS contamination crisis for several years. In fact, it was my constituent, Fred Stone of Stoneridge Farm that first drew attention to this very real public health threat. Much like many others across Maine, Fred had contaminated well water and soil and it was very expensive for him to treat and filter PFAS from his drinking water and water for his livestock. Fred was the first one in the state to deal with this issue but he certainly isn't the last.

Testing for PFAS in residential wells isn't cheap. It can cost around \$250-\$300 for a reputable, EPA-approved PFAS drinking water test. This may be a hardship to many Mainers who wish to test their wells. LD 500 would require the state to cover the cost of residential well water testing for low-income Mainers.

While the state is covering the cost of testing for Mainers whose wells are contaminated due to the land application of sludge on farmland, there are many other sources of contamination that are not being covered by the state these include contamination from AFFF firefighting foam, industrial sources of PFAS, landfill leachate, and aerial applications of pesticides containing PFAS. Additionally, the funding the state is currently using to help impacted farmers will not last forever, and there will inevitably be families that fall through the cracks that will need assistance to test their wells.

Maine already has a program set up to provide free testing for things like arsenic and radon. PFAS should be added to this list. I recognize that providing this testing will require funding, but, as with other public health issues, prevention is cheaper than treatment in the long run. The medium-and long-term economic benefits to investing in public health are enormous. Preventing toxic exposure is always cheaper than the cost of medical care for patients dealing with PFAS linked illnesses. Our communities have a higher economic productivity when Mainers are healthy.

*Chair, Health and Human Services Committee \* Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee*  
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*Proudly representing Senate District 32: Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, Lyman*



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Everyone should have access to clean drinking water regardless of income. It is a basic human right. Therefore I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 500.

Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

**Henry Ingwersen**  
State Senator, District 32

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