



PO BOX 263 • 254 ALEXANDER REED RD  
RICHMOND, ME 04357  
PHONE: 207-737-4092 • FAX: 207-737-7150  
E-MAIL: [MRWA@MAINERWA.ORG](mailto:MRWA@MAINERWA.ORG)  
WEBSITE: [WWW.MAINERWA.ORG](http://WWW.MAINERWA.ORG)

---

To: Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Bradley Sawyer, Deputy Director

Date: April 22, 2025

Re: Testimony in Opposition to LD 1326 – “An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances”

---

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Brad Sawyer, and I am here on behalf of the Maine Rural Water Association. MRWA is a member-driven nonprofit organization based in Richmond, dedicated to providing training, technical assistance, and advocacy on behalf of our approximately three hundred members. The majority of our membership consists of water and wastewater utilities from across the state, all of whom are deeply committed to ensuring clean, safe drinking water and protecting the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater.

We appreciate the Legislature’s concern over per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and recognize the critical importance of protecting public health through safe drinking water. While we support the goal of reducing PFAS exposure and ensuring clean drinking water for all Mainers, MRWA respectfully opposes L.D. 1326. Our opposition is based on the understanding that both the state and federal governments are already actively addressing PFAS through a coordinated and scientifically grounded approach. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recently issued enforceable maximum contaminant levels for several PFAS compounds under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services has the authority and obligation to implement these standards and respond to new federal developments.

L.D. 1326 codifies specific PFAS MCLs in statute, rather than through the rulemaking process. We believe this approach is problematic. Establishing MCLs by statute limits flexibility, creates potential conflicts with evolving federal regulations, and may result in inconsistent standards across jurisdictions. The rulemaking process, by contrast, allows for scientific updates, public input, and alignment with EPA actions—ensuring that Maine’s water quality standards are responsive and evidence-based.

Our Association fully supports PFAS monitoring and mitigation efforts. In fact, many utilities in Maine are already conducting PFAS testing and developing plans for treatment as necessary. However, we believe that L.D. 1326 may duplicate or complicate efforts already underway and potentially create confusion among system operators and the public. We respectfully ask the Committee not to pass this legislation at this time, given the rapidly evolving federal regulatory framework and the state’s existing authority to regulate PFAS through rule. Maine’s water systems need clarity, consistency, and support—not additional layers of statutory complexity.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to ensuring safe drinking water for all Mainers. I would be happy to answer any questions.