



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Poppy Arford in support of
**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**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Poppy Arford. I proudly represent State House District 101, the western part of Brunswick. As a cosponsor, I ask for your vote in support of LD 1326 and thank Representative Shagoury for presenting the bill.

My beloved Brunswick community, where I have lived for over 35 years, have raised a family and hope to retire, has been dramatically harmed, both from an environmental and a public health perspective, by the discharge into our soils and waters of PFAS-laden Aqueous Film-forming Foam. The very least Maine government can provide to my community and Maine people everywhere is the most reliable PFAS safety standards for their public drinking water supply – standards based on rigorous, state of the art research and study.

On April 10, 2024, EPA announced the “final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS.... EPA expects that over many years the final rule will prevent PFAS exposure in drinking water for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.”

LD 1326 establishes maximum contaminant levels for regulated PFAS contaminants, based on these EPA standards, for community water systems as well as nontransient, noncommunity water systems. These levels are significantly lower than the current interim state PFAS levels and reflect what we have learned about the harms of PFAS exposure. For example, the state PFOA and PFOS levels are 20 PPT, and the EPA levels are 4 PPT – significantly lower. The bill also allows the commissioner to decrease the maximum level of a contaminant or add a regulated PFAS contaminant other than those already specified through rulemaking as the

commissioner determines necessary to protect human health at all stages, including prenatal development.

These are critically important steps to protect the public now and in the future as our scientific understanding of the harms of PFAS exposure continues to evolve. My esteemed colleagues, you may make sure Maine's standards evolve with the science by passing LD 1326.

Thank you for your consideration and for your attention to the testimony presented today.