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Testimony of Rep. Dan Ankeles 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 members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with you. I am Representative Dan Ankeles, and I serve House District 100, which includes a central portion of Brunswick. It's my pleasure to share my 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**.

You've heard by now that the state and federal governments have had differing PFAS safety limits on drinking water, with Maine at 20 parts per trillion and the federal government at 4 parts per trillion. You've also likely heard that the federal standard could be significantly rolled back or done away with all together with the change in administration.

We need consistency, and I urge the committee to use this legislative feel to ensure that we provide it. The reason we need consistency is because our constituents, particularly those on private wells, are frightened. In Brunswick, the site of Maine's worst ever toxic firefighting foam spill, this discrepancy has caused confusion over what amount is actually safe to consume, whether that means drinking, brushing your teeth, showering, watering your garden, etc.

The more we have studied PFAS, the more we have realized that even the smallest amounts can be unsafe. Rather than send mixed messages to the public, this committee has the opportunity to acknowledge that, while the federal standard of 4 parts per trillion may be harder to maintain, it is the right thing to do for public health.

Thank you for the opportunity, and please feel welcome to follow up with me if you are interested in what my community has been going through over the last eight plus months.