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Testimony in Support of LD 1786

An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Provide Certain Information Regarding Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to the Public and Private Drinking Well Water Owners

Steven Weems, Town Councilor, Brunswick, Maine

To the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

May 5, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich, and other distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Steven Weems, one of nine town councilors in Brunswick. I arise today to support LD 1786 as an individual councilor, not specifically on behalf of the Town of Brunswick. As you know, PFAS contamination of our drinking water is a really serious, potentially deadly matter.

To be brief, this is a common sense bill to facilitate informed and effective action by our citizens, on an issue of great environmental and public health significance. Solid science, accurate consumer knowledge, regular monitoring, and effective remedial action are essential to dealing with this ubiquitous environmental threat. LD 1786 will help provide the information and the tools to deal with this problem throughout the State of Maine, at the private drinking water well level. This is vital to a multi-layered smart response featuring entities and people at all levels.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is an essential provider of scientific testing and environmental standards data, plus information about remedial actions private well owners can take. With confidence in the leadership and good will of the DEP, and its value as a working partner with municipalities on this issue, I urge favorable consideration of LD 1786.