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Testimony of Rep. Dan Ankeles as a co-sponsor 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 Water Well Owners

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich and fellow members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with you today. I am Dan Ankeles, and I represent House District 100, which is a central portion of Brunswick that includes the former Brunswick Naval Air Station and several surrounding neighborhoods to the immediate west. It's my pleasure to speak to you briefly as a co-sponsor 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 Water Well Owners.**

I want to thank Representative Arford for her strong testimony and for her hard work on this bill. She has put a lot of time and hard work into finding ways to advocate for Brunswick's spill victims, and I want to commend her for pushing for as much quality information sharing and transparency as possible.

When you're a homeowner who depends on a private well, having chemical spills and/or legacy chemicals nearby is incredibly stressful. Such contamination is threatening to your health and well-being, your finances, your rights as a property owner and your peace of mind.

Since the August 19 spill in our community, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has worked very hard to run point on the state's spill response, providing data and communications to members of the public. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to provide the public with quality information they can use to protect their health and plan for the future. A clear, reliable channel of information and communication is essential in any environmental disaster. Environmental disasters tend to generate a lot more fear and confusion, especially when nothing around you looks any different from the way it's supposed to. Once the foam is gone, the remaining poison is hidden to us unless we test for it.

DEP may very well already be taking some of the actions that LD 1786 calls for, but I still feel this legislation has value. If this committee can agree to codify some of these best information sharing practices, we will not only be helping Brunswick's spill victims, but we will also have a

tested protocol in place if Maine should be unlucky enough to experience another spill like we had August 19th.

Thank you for the chance to provide some additional context and to continue to contribute to our delegation's broader spill response efforts. I am happy to answer questions.