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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**LD 1903, "An Act to Conform the State's Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl
Substances Laws to Federal Standards"
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
May 12, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee: My name is Jeff Timberlake and I represent Senate District 17. I am here to introduce LD 1903, "An Act to Conform the State's PFAS Laws to Federal Standards."

This bill brings Maine's PFAS laws into alignment with federal standards. As you all know, PFAS is a class of long-lasting chemical compounds that have contaminated water, soil and food sources across our state. These chemical compounds are both oil and water resistant; therefore, they do not break down into their basic elements over time like other compounds do.

LD 1903 builds on the work Maine has already done by ensuring our standards are consistent with the most up-to-date federal science and standards. First, this bill sets clear soil concentration levels for PFAS. These levels will help determine when land is considered contaminated under Maine's Fund to Address PFAS Contamination. This is important for farmers, landowners and communities that need clarity about whether their land qualifies for state support.

Second, it updates Maine's drinking water rules to match the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national standards that were adopted in April 2024. These limits are based on the latest health data and provide a strong, science-backed foundation for protecting public health.

Third, LD 1903 ensures that when it comes to food packaging, federal law takes precedence. If the EPA or another federal agency regulates PFAS in food packaging, Maine won't have conflicting or duplicative rules. This prevents confusion for businesses while maintaining public safety.

The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt surface water quality standards that align with federal limits once those are established. The science behind this is still in flux, so this keeps our environmental regulations current and effective without unnecessary delay.

Finally, if the EPA adopts PFAS air emissions standards in the future, Maine's Department of Environmental Protection will be required to match those standards. This ensures we are acting quickly and consistently on all fronts – soil, water, air and consumer products.

This is a practical, forward-looking bill because it does not roll back any of Maine's existing protections. Instead, it strengthens them by building on federal action. It brings clarity, consistency, and efficiency to how we regulate PFAS while continuing to protect the people and environment of Maine.

I respectfully ask for your support of this bill; and I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.