



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony in opposition to **LD1982, An Act to Ensure Uniformity in the Regulation of PFAS** May 19, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Cathy Breen. I am the Director of Government Affairs at Maine Conservation Voters (MCV), a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters that is building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I'm speaking in opposition to **LD1982, An Act to Ensure Uniformity in the Regulation of PFAS**.

Over the past 6 years, Maine has been on the leading edge of detecting, monitoring, remediating and compensating for the widespread presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS and PFOS, a group of over 4,000 human-made chemicals used in various products like stain-resistant fabrics, non-stick cookware, and firefighting foams. For example,

- In 2022, in the wake of PFAS-laden sewage sludge being widely used as fertilizer, the State of Maine established a \$60 million fund to help farmers recoup the value of their contaminated land.¹
- In addition, this committee, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) have devoted countless hours to developing, modifying and implementing Maine's PFAS Products Law.² This law aims to reduce Mainers' future exposure to these chemicals over time while allowing for some "unavoidable" uses.
- The Maine Attorney General filed suit against the largest manufacturers of these chemicals, claiming, "PFAS manufacturers must account for the environmental, health and economic damage caused by their actions."³

All of these landmark actions rely on the widely accepted scientific definition of PFAS and PFOS. Maine is a national leader in this arena, and many other states have followed our lead in facing the public health threats caused by these chemicals.⁴

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ag/pfas/pfas-assistance.shtml>

² <https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/PFAS-products/>

³ <https://www.maine.gov/ag/news/article.shtml?id=10718677#:~:text=PFAS%20manufacturers%20must%20account%20for,the%20face%20of%20this%20recklessness.>

⁴ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964\(23\)00372-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964(23)00372-9/fulltext)

Under the cloak of “uniformity,” LD1982 seeks to upend and weaken these laws by aligning Maine’s definition of these chemicals to the less inclusive definition used by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ever since states started to regulate PFAS, industry groups have attempted to dodge regulation and accountability by redefining them. There are at least 24 other states that use the same definition. Over 150 non-industry scientists agree this is the appropriate definition for PFAS.⁵

Maine has resisted pressure from out-of-state corporate interests that prioritize profits over the health and environment of Mainers. MCV urges you to stand strong against these efforts to weaken our protections and to continue to safeguard our soils, waters and bodies from these harmful substances. We urge you to vote “ought not to pass” on LD1982. Thank you for your consideration.

⁵ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YLB2zvWG5Ez6VeMqqbw77LpVEj0JTj1H/view>