



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Legislative Director, Maine Conservation Voters
In Support of LD 2115

“An Act to Protect Private Well Owners from Toxic Chemicals”

Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

January 28, 2026

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Sarah Woodbury and I'm the new Legislative Director at Maine Conservation Voters. MCV is a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy.

I am here to testify in support of LD 2115, *“An Act to Protect Private Well Owners from Toxic Chemicals,”* which would provide funding to households who are impacted by toxic substances in their residential wells including, but not limited to, PFAS contamination. It will also change the name of the Land Application Contaminant Monitoring Fund to the Well Contamination Response Fund and change what the funding authorized under the fund can be used for moving forward.

In 2021, the legislature passed LD 1600 “An Act to An Act To Investigate Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination of Land and Groundwater”. This legislation set up the current PFAS farmland testing program that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is currently working on. Part of that original piece of legislation set up the Land Application Contaminant Monitoring Fund, which would have been funded by fees of \$10 per ton on any disposal of “septage, industrial sludge, 32 municipal sludge, bioash, wood ash or other residual”. However, before fees could be assessed to fund that program, the law was amended to do away with the fee program. Since then the fund has been sitting there empty. As someone who worked hard on the

initial legislation that set up that fund, I believe that it makes sense to shift the focus of that fund to helping residential well owners deal with contaminated wells.

Clean drinking water is a basic human right. While Maine has programs to help low-income families access testing and remediation, there are many families who don't qualify for assistance yet cannot afford the expense of testing and treating their wells for contaminants. Regular testing for basic contaminants like arsenic, lead, and radon costs over \$100. PFAS testing can cost upwards of \$300. Remediation costs can be as expensive as \$5000 or more if you need to drill a new well. This committee is fully aware of the health impacts of PFAS. Other bacteria and contaminants found in drinking water such as arsenic and lead can also lead to dangerous health impacts. Families dealing with contamination issues through no fault of their own should be able to access resources to make sure that their family is drinking clean water. LD 2115 will help them to be able to do that. Therefore, we urge the committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2115. Thank you.