

My Mother was from Brewer, Maine and her family operated the Bon Ton Ferry on the Penobscot River. Growing up I spent my summers in Maine, white perch fishing in Davis Lake, salmon fishing on the Narraguagus river and brook trout fishing the beaver ponds in Beddington.

- PFAS are an extremely broad class of materials. It is misleading for State legislators to be told that they all have similar risks. It is like saying that because lead and mercury are dangerous, all metals should not be used. In fact, many FDA approved drugs and drug therapies are PFAS or contain PFAS, saving and improving lives. To claim that all PFAS cause human harm is inaccurate.
- One class of PFAS is plastics and rubbers that contain fluorine (referred to as fluoropolymers). These products are used in applications that require the most extreme safety and purity such as;
  - Medical implants; pace makers, arterial grafts, artificial joints
  - Medical devices; Fluoropolymer catheters that enable minimally invasive surgeries.
  - Pharmaceutical packaging for purity, moisture and oxygen permeation resistance. This includes technologies for manufacturing and distribution of some Covid vaccines.
  - Use in semiconductor manufacture where higher purity than even medical applications is needed.
  - Polymeric fluoro-coatings used in medical protective fabrics (drapes and gowns), emergency gear, and professional clothing and accessories.
- Fluoropolymers are used as critical components in all automobiles. They are necessary to reduce fuel emissions to near zero levels in today's traditional combustion engines. They are also a critical component of lithium ion batteries used in fuel efficient electric vehicles.
- Fluoropolymer wire and cabling are standard in all military and commercial aircraft for performance and safety.
- Fluoropolymers are required for 5G cellular communications, as components of printed circuit boards, and as wires, cables and other components in 5G antenna systems.
- Trying to regulate an entire class of materials with huge differences in form (some gases, some liquids, some solids), huge differences in safety and risk characteristics (as noted above), and that are used in almost every major industry (medical, pharmaceutical, aerospace, automotive, oil and gas, industrial, architectural, semicon and electronics) and that impart performance, safety and sustainability, will be both a daunting and expensive effort, and in many cases counterproductive to health, safety and sustainability.

I spent my career working with fluoro-materials (now called PFAS). As a nature lover I believe I have a balanced perspective on how to address PFAS issues. I would be happy to discuss this subject further.