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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

May 3, 2021

Testimony of Speaker Ryan Fecteau supporting
LD 1503, An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I am Ryan Fecteau and I represent part of my hometown of Biddeford. I also have the distinct honor of serving as the Speaker of the Maine House. I am privileged to offer testimony in support of **LD 1503, An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution**, which I am proud to co-sponsor.

Here in Maine, we have already seen the harmful impact of PFAS firsthand on our water and farmland. Not far from my home in Biddeford is the Arundel dairy farm of Fred Stone. Fred's story is familiar to this committee. Since 2016, Fred's farm and livelihood have been threatened by the presence of PFAS. The source of this contamination was wastewater sludge, some of which came from a local sewer district.

This legislation will not make farmers impacted by PFAS whole. It will, however, reduce the flow of PFAS into our environment, protect our municipalities from costly remediation and shield Mainers from the harmful health impacts of these forever chemicals.

PFAS is far too common in our society, from textiles and cookware to food packaging and clothing. This is an important step to allow the DEP to gradually phase out these forever chemicals in certain products. We owe it to our municipalities, to our farmers and small business owners, and to future generations to support this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.