



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD 1503 – *An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution*
May 3, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resource Committee, my name is Neal Goldberg, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1503 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

Now that we are certain of the harmful effects of PFAS substances, and aware of the extent of PFAS contamination in Maine, something must be done to end the unnecessary use of these pollutants.

Widespread PFAS prohibition is difficult to achieve given the ubiquity in which these substances are used in every industry. Starting with residential carpets and similar products, then expanding to more categories, is the proper application of piecemeal restrictions that will lead to widespread prohibition in 2030 as proposed in this bill.

In the interim, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should be receiving notice of the presence of these substances. PFAS related pollution and contamination is costly to remediate and the environmental impacts can be irreversible. If the DEP had a record of the use of these forever chemicals then the responsible party could be held accountable should there be contamination.

The bill's directive that the DEP create a source reduction program with information and education is well devised. Citizens will need guidance on which products in their homes and businesses contain PFAS substances and what to do with them.

LD 1503 would provide grants, to the extent they are available, to municipalities for PFAS reduction. On this matter, the bill could go further. A statewide effort to collect, store, or dispose of PFAS containing products would be more effective than each municipality creating capacity for these functions. State assistance in identifying and remediating contaminated sites is the next logical support municipalities will need.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important environmental issue.