



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association
In Support of

LD 1505 – *An Act to Restrict the Use of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in
Firefighting Foam*
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 1505 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

This legislation wisely curtails PFAS use in firefighting foams within a reasonable timeframe and incorporates participation from multiple stakeholders responsible for the manufacture, use, storage, and disposal of PFAS containing products and the remediation of PFAS contaminated sites.

At present there remains a need for municipal firefighters to use PFAS containing firefighting foams but as the market creates better fluorine-free foams this need will diminish. As presented, this bill accounts for current needs yet also restricts irresponsible behavior with PFAS containing firefighting foams and prepares for future adoption of environmentally friendly firefighting foams. If PFAS firefighting foams are used for testing or training, they should be entirely collected for proper disposal. If PFAS firefighting foams are discharged in state waters, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should be notified within 24-hours.

Municipal officials feel the real strength of this legislation is its proper location of responsibility for collection and safe storage when PFAS containing firefighting foams become prohibited by law. The manufacturer buy-back requirement puts the financial responsibility on the source of these products instead of on the consumer who acquired them prior to the prohibition. Bringing DEP in collaboration with numerous stakeholders to create a framework for collection is also prudent to ensure the safe storage or disposal of these products. The report created from this collaboration would reveal the extent to which municipalities possess the capacity to store or dispose of PFAS containing products and might be the beginning of a broader framework for all PFAS containing products.

LD 1505 balances the immediate need for certain product categories like firefighting foams, with a long-term and equitable phase out of PFAS use in products known to have harmful environmental impacts.

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