



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Lori K. Gramlich

154 Temple Ave.

Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064

Phone: (207) 232-1067

lori.gramlich@legislature.maine.gov

May 3, 2021

Testimony of Rep. Lori K. Gramlich presenting

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 colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I am Lori Gramlich, Representative for House District 13, which is the town of Old Orchard Beach. I am pleased to present **LD 1503, An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution**.

As we all know, toxic PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals,” have contaminated our environment and continue to threaten our public health. PFAS exposure has been linked to cancer, childhood developmental delays, compromised immune system and adverse impacts to a woman’s ability to get pregnant.

As we all have heard, PFAS have contaminated water and soil across our state, harming our environment and contaminating farmland and drinking water. Many PFAS do not break down and remain in the environment unless cleaned up. PFAS are widespread, and clean-up is expensive.

PFAS are used in thousands of everyday products including cookware, clothing, food packaging, textiles, car seats and even dental floss! Most of these uses could be substituted for safer alternatives. It is imperative that we stop toxic PFAS at the source to protect Maine people and our environment.

LD 1503 aims to break the cycle of PFAS contamination and clean-up by phasing out PFAS in some consumer and industrial products. It requires that manufacturers disclose PFAS use, pay a reporting fee to the Department of Environmental Protection and, importantly, begin phasing out the use of PFAS in non-essential products, such as carpets, rugs and stain-resistant fabric treatment by 2023. The reporting fee identified in this bill can be used to help pay for cleanup and remediation of contamination for impacted municipalities.

LD 1503 also gives the Department of Environmental Protection the authority to add other categories of products to the above identified products. And finally, this bill would phase out all currently unavoidable uses of PFAS in products by 2030.

As a social worker, my entire professional career has been spent advocating for children, women and our most vulnerable, through the lens of social justice. Addressing and eliminating PFAS in non-essential products is an issue of environmental justice, when we consider the disproportionate impact PFAS have on low-income communities, tribal and rural communities, and communities of color. Our most vulnerable Mainers are more susceptible to health and financial impacts of PFAS contamination, and it is imperative that we do all that we can to mitigate the serious health and environmental impacts of these toxic “forever chemicals” on all Mainers.

I urge you to vote unanimously for LD 1503. Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions for you.