



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MAINE

Loring House

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Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is John Hennessy and I represent the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. I offer testimony on behalf of our Climate Justice Council in **support** of LD 1503.

As a whole church, we have promised to place the care of God's Creation at the heart of our common life. Together, we have taken up church-wide action in order to safeguard the integrity of Creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth and we fully support the goal of eliminating exposure to PFAS.

Seven years of independent [scientific research, undertaken only because it was ordered by a federal judge](#), link this chemical in people to testicular and kidney cancer, pregnancy-induced hypertension, thyroid disease, ulcerative colitis and high cholesterol. The research included the largest epidemiological study ever of a toxic chemical.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 99 percent of Americans have been contaminated with this chemical. In America, our drinking water supplies are contaminated with PFAS to an extent that science is just beginning to grasp. Researchers and regulators have only recently begun to test for the stuff in private and community water supplies.

The healthy future that our faith tradition envisions for all people is threatened by PFAS chemicals, which contaminate our water supplies and exist in various consumer products. Low-income communities and communities of color, for whom we are particularly called to care, are especially affected.

The moral responsibility of protecting communities from harmful chemical contaminations cannot and should not be overlooked. Reducing or eliminating PFAS furthers the mission of protecting human health and caring for the air, land, and water upon which all of God's creation depends.

As a community of faith in pursuit of a healthy and abundant life for the communities and people we care for, we support LD 1503 and trust you will do the same.