



**RETAIL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
MAINE**  
Voice of Maine Retail

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May 3, 2021

Senator Stacy Brenner, Chair  
Representative Ralph Tucker, Chair  
Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

**RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION of LD 1503, An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution**

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes. Maine's retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 1503.

I do not have an exact count of the number of bills this session looking to deal with PFAS in various situations. I know there are a number of them, but this is the first one where I am interpreting the bill to impact retail and the products that are sold. We certainly recognize the challenges that PFAS contamination has presented in Maine, and as elected officials you are being responsive to citizens' concerns.

LD 1503 would ban several uses of PFAS effective January 1, 2023 and ban all uses in 2030. According to the US CDC, "PFAS are a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Fluoropolymer coatings can be used in such varied products as clothing, furniture, adhesives, food packaging, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces, and the insulation of electrical wire." As with any chemical of concern, it is not easy to find alternatives that are safer or maintain similar performance characteristics.

Although the bill establishes complex reporting requirements for any use of PFAS until the proposed restrictions go into effect, the bill would also ban all uses of PFAS unless the Maine DEP has determined that PFAS used in a product is unavoidable. The Maine DEP has many

talented people, but we question whether the department has the time and resources to make the determination about PFAS use being unavoidable.

While we appreciate this discussion happening, we are concerned that LD 1503 is overly broad and prescribes a different method for evaluating and regulating PFAS than other chemicals are evaluated under existing Maine law.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with you.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE  
President and CEO