



April 30, 2021

Senate Chair Stacy Brenner
House Chair Ralph Tucker
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine House of Representatives
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Honorable Senate Chair Brenner and House Chair Tucker,

My name is Mark S. Rossi, PhD, Executive Director of Clean Production Action. Clean Production Action is a national, non-profit organization located in Somerville, Massachusetts. We are a solutions organization. Our tools and collaborations simplify the complexity of identifying safer alternatives to toxic chemicals. Businesses, environmental organizations, investors, and governments use our tools to make informed decisions when eliminating or advocating for the elimination of toxic chemicals.

For example, our tool, GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals, is referenced in Maine, Department of Environmental Protection, Chapter 880: Regulation of Chemical Use in Children's Products, for the evaluation of "the human health and environmental hazard" posed by a priority chemical and each identified chemical alternative. Additionally Clean Production Action has certified through our GreenScreen Certified program over 230 PFAS-free and environmentally preferred products used in textile manufacturing and firefighting foam products.

Clean Production Action **supports LD 1503, An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution**. As the Committee is well aware, and documented in "Managing PFAS in Maine, Final Report from the Maine PFAS Task Force" (January 2020), PFAS contamination of drinking water and the environment is common in Maine as well as across the United States.

LD 1503 establishes a comprehensive framework for ending the exposure of people and the environment to PFAS in Maine by:

1. Requiring companies to disclose which products contain intentionally PFAS to the State. Knowing which products contain PFAS, how much PFAS is in those products, and the purpose of adding PFAS to the product is necessary to understand the scope of PFAS use, prioritize end uses for elimination, and identify alternatives. Maine already collects this type of data on mercury through its participation in the Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC).

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2. Immediately (by 1/1/23) eliminating the use of PFAS in products for which it is unnecessary, specifically, carpets, rugs, and fabric treatments. Lowe's, for example, will no longer sell PFAS-containing fabric treatments.

3. Setting an end date for the use of PFAS in the state of 1/1/30, while providing exemptions for currently unavoidable uses of PFAS. Manufacturers need to know that the goal of the State of Maine is to sunset the use of PFAS chemicals. Setting this date in legislation makes it clear to manufacturers that now is the time to know where they use PFAS chemicals and to start identifying and using environmentally preferable alternatives. For example, Chipotle, McDonald's, Taco Bell, and Whole Foods Market have all set goals to eliminate PFAS in food packaging.

4. Creating a PFAS source reduction program to encourage the replacement of PFAS with safer alternatives. As manufacturers eliminate PFAS, it is important to guide them to alternative designs, materials, and chemicals that are safer for people and the environment.

By passing LD 1503 you will establish a comprehensive framework for eliminating exposure to the majority of uses of these "forever chemicals," while still enabling the use of PFAS where there are currently no sufficient alternatives.

Sincerely,



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