

To: Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and Members of the Joint Committee for Environment and Natural Resources

From: Bradley Sawyer, Director of Government Affairs

Date: May 3, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of L.D 1503, An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution

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Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and Members of the Joint Committee for Environment and Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Brad Sawyer, and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Maine Rural Water Association.

As you are all aware, we represent water and wastewater utilities that are thinking, and worried, about PFAS every single day. Our industry does not manufacture or use PFAS, yet we are on the front lines of treatment and a critical part of the conversation. Treatment of drinking water, wastewater effluent, and residuals is a particularly expensive endeavor and one whose cost will likely be passed on to Maine citizens in some way or another. The best way to help this situation is to reduce the level of PFAS that is entering our state in a thoughtful and proactive manner. We believe that L.D. 1503 will play a key role in that effort.

Source reduction is vital part of the solution, but the education of unsuspecting Mainers is also exceedingly important. Among other things, this bill leans on the experts at the Department of Environmental Protection to examine ways that the public can be taught what these compounds are and why they should be aware of them and the products that contain them. Additionally, L.D. 1503 potentially provides funds to publicly owned treatment works who are desperately in need of support when dealing with per-and-polyfluoroalkyl compounds. The Maine Rural Water Association respectfully urges you to support this legislation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [Bradley.Sawyer@MaineRWA.org](mailto:Bradley.Sawyer@MaineRWA.org) or 207-737-9014.