



Maine Municipal
Association

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Provisional Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

*LD 1600 – An Act To Investigate Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination
of Land and Groundwater*

May 7, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Neal Goldberg, and I am providing provisional testimony neither for nor against LD 1600 on behalf of MMA. Amended testimony will be provided if the comments offered today do not align with the Legislative Policy Committee's official position.

The scary reality after decades of using forever chemicals is that many areas of Maine have been contaminated with PFAS. Even scarier is that we currently do not know the extent and location of contaminated lands and groundwater. LD 1600 is a formal commitment to uncovering the magnitude of PFAS contamination in Maine. The Land Application Contaminant Monitoring Fund should be established for the purpose of testing and monitoring soil and groundwater but it should draw its funding from the culprits of PFAS contamination, not the victims.

Municipal water treatment plants are the recipients, not generators, of PFAS related contamination but this legislation targets their resultant municipal sludge as a source of revenue. The \$10 fee per ton is a significant cost in addition to the expense of water treatment that mitigates PFAS contamination and to the disposal of municipal sludge that only exists to the extent that upstream parties contaminate our lands and waters.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.