

Arundel, ME 04046

Residence: (207) 286-9146

Wayne.Parry@legislature.maine.gov

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES **2 STATE HOUSE STATION** AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1440 TTY: (207) 287-4469

## **Testimony on**

L.D. 1600, "An Act To Investigate Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination of Land and Groundwater"

## **Presented by** Representative Wayne R. Parry District 10

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee** Friday, May 7, 2021

Good morning, Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I am State Representative Wayne Parry, and I proudly represent District 10, which includes the towns of Arundel, Dayton, and a portion of Lyman. It is an honor to appear before you to offer my support for L.D. 1600, "An Act To Investigate Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination of Land and Groundwater."

The PFAS issue is starting to affect every corner of our great state. It is very disturbing that the agencies that oversee these issues have not come forward to address them on their own. I really wish a bill like this was unnecessary. The agencies that were supposed to oversee the protection of our environment did not do so with regard to the harms caused by PFAS. As a matter of fact, the farms that have been destroyed, including one in my district, Stoneridge Farms, Inc., were told by these very agencies that what these farms spread on their land was safe. We know where a few of these problem farms currently exist, but these agencies do not seem to want to step up for other possible farms facing the same predicament. We know that the agencies have refused to cover the previous testing cost for the farms we know about, which could potentially be a friendly amendment to this bill.

Although I have some reservation with the scope of the funding source put into this bill, I believe Committee members would be able to narrow that some. I also believe we could be opening a can of worms here, as hurting more farms without compensation should not be done. Protecting our food supply along with protecting the farms should be paramount.

I am sure there are plenty of representatives from various agencies here today. The fields at the Maine Correctional Center, in Windham, is one place that should be tested right away. They have put a vegetable garden for the prison right on top of a previous area where SD Warren dumped sludge back in the 60s and 70s. My mother mentioned this to the workers down at the garden, but they brushed her off. My mother has lived right up the street for 55 years.

As I said, I have some reservations with the bill as written, but this bill is hugely important, so I hope the Committee can come together on the PFAS testing issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.