

**Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

**LD 1537**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the Prevention  
Of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution  
and to Provide Additional Funding**

**Public Hearing**

**April 26, 2023**

Honorable Senator Brenner, Chair; Honorable Representative Gramlich, Chair; and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT OF LD 1537**. My name is Jacquelyn Elliott and I live in Waterboro. As a long-time environmental health and justice advocate, I have a keen interest in what is transpiring around the issue of PFAS pollution and regulation. Maine is on the forefront of facing the horrendous realities of PFAS contamination of our lands and waters; our wildlife and human bodies; while providing leadership in meeting the challenges posed to the public health of our citizens and the degradation of our environment. The cruel truth is PFAS are a class of toxic forever and ubiquitous chemicals that science is finding threaten human and environmental health at [ever-decreasing levels](#)<sup>1</sup> of exposure. PFAS have [harmful impacts](#)<sup>2</sup> to every body system, and science is demonstrating those impacts are far-reaching and suspected of [damaging future generations](#)<sup>3</sup>. It is becoming an inescapable

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/key-epa-actions-address-pfas>

<sup>2</sup> Emanuel, Gabrielle, February 16, 2023, *Tracing the path of 'toxic forever chemicals' inside the body*: <https://www.wbur.org/news/2023/02/16/pfas-biology-blood-new-hampshire>

<sup>3</sup> Hileman, Bette, August 3, 2009, Environmental Health News, Are Contaminants Silencing Our Genes?: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/silencing-genes-chemical-contaminants-cancer-diabetes/>

conclusion that to continue assaulting our health and environment with unnecessary contacts with PFAS chemicals is more than unwise. The only sane response is to **turn off the toxic tap**.

**LD 1537** outlines a reasonable framework to begin the process for abating the introduction of avoidable PFAS chemicals into an already overwhelmed environment. It would commence the assembling of a data base from which to develop regulation and provide resources for that work. **LD 1537** addresses technical issues with the PFAS products ban to include more resources, direction, and funding to implement the law; identifies priorities for source reduction; provides for an orderly transition to phase out non-crucial PFAS uses; and exempts uses that currently have no reasonable alternative prior to the 2032 phase-out deadline. **LD 1537** adjusts use-reporting provisions, extends the reporting deadline, and exempts small manufacturers until future phase-outs are instituted. Requirements for reporting are clarified to include information obtained from suppliers as well as from product testing that establishes total organic fluorine content. These methods can be utilized in the absence of more precise testing methods. **LD 1537** addresses weaknesses in the proposed rule and requires that all PFAS are subject to reporting regardless whether or not they are assigned a CAS Registry Number, and obliges reporting national annual sales volume of products containing PFAS in order to establish priorities for source reduction documented by prevalent use.

Thank you for considering my comments. I ask the **COMMITTEE VOTE OUGHT TO PASS**.

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