

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Stacy Brenner  
Chair, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Cross, Building Room 216  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**RE: Support - LD 1214/ SP 495** *An Act to Clarify the Laws Related to PFAS Contamination*

Dear Chair Brenner and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

INDA, the Association for the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry respectfully requests your support of LD 1214/SP 495 which would provide clarification to Public Law 2021 chapter 477 which requires reporting of products with intentionally added PFAS and would ban products with intentionally added PFAS as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, unless DEP determines that the use of PFAS in the product is an unavoidable use.

Founded in 1968, INDA member companies represent the entire nonwovens value chain including raw materials and roll goods producers, machinery manufacturers, converters, and brand owners. INDA works each day to fulfill our mission of “fostering member and industry success through its activities.” INDA provides thought-leadership in Innovation & Technology through conference content, recognition awards, and industry reports; protecting markets that are important to our members through focused Product Stewardship; advocating for industry sectors impacted by regulatory or consumer-driven issues; and organizing face-to-face interaction through industry expositions and events.

INDA members include the manufacturers of thousands of durable and disposable products such as personal care items, hygiene products, PPE, medical equipment, construction materials, automotive fixtures, and many other end uses.

INDA recognizes Maine’s interest in managing PFAS contamination to protect the health of the state’s citizens and the environment. LD 1214/SP 495 furthers this goal by making the necessary changes to definitions in current law that would address concerns with certain PFAS chemistries while allowing critically important uses and benefits of these chemistries.

LD 1214/ SP 495 would also enable greater compliance with the law by providing companies a one-year extension of the deadline for reporting of products containing intentionally added PFAS. Although the reporting requirement was scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2023, the DEP granted thousands of manufacturers an extension in recognition of the complications related to reporting including delays in rulemaking, difficulty in obtaining and protecting confidential business information protected by intellectual property laws, disruptions in the global supply chain, and lack of laboratory testing capacity. A one-year extension of the reporting requirement date would allow manufacturers and the DEP to work through these issues.

Lastly, the proposed bill removes the ban on any products with PFAS by January 1, 2030 unless DEP

identifies it as an unavoidable use. This provision is unnecessary and duplicative given that the law states DEP can by rule identify products or categories of products that cannot be sold or distributed.

As you know, nearly every sector of the economy, including aerospace, autos, alternative energy, healthcare, building and construction, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture, relies on PFAS chemistries for the reliable and safe function of a variety of products.

INDA encourages the support of LD 1214/ SP 495 as a sensible solution to protect health and the environment while providing regulatory clarification and certainty to impacted companies.

Sincerely,



Wes Fisher  
Director of Government Affairs  
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry