

Testimony
Patrick Vaillancourt
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In Support of LD 1214
“An Act to Clarify the Laws to Combat Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl
Substances Contamination”

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the joint standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Patrick Vaillancourt and I am the owner/operator of Northern Turf Management, a specialty turf and plant health care company in Cyr Plantation, ME and a resident of the same. **I am in favor of LD 1214 “An Act to Clarify the Laws to Combat Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination.”**

I have been in the turf and ornamental health care industry since 2012, with a BS degree in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Maine and an AS degree in Turfgrass Management from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

While Maine and the US as a whole certainly needs to perform further research on PFAS/PFOA, a better understanding of their true make-up, and more importantly their true acute and chronic effects, current laws in place seem to be aggressive based on the facts available. LD 1503 is the measure in question, and while well intentioned, has had some ramifications that seemingly make the cure worse than what is trying to be prevented.

As PFAS/PFOA become more familiar to us, we know that they exist just about everywhere, from pesticides and their containers, seatbelts, cell phones, firefighting turnout gear, medicines, and across many other things we contact daily. Is there the potential that SOME of these PFAS/PFOA contained within COULD be harmful? Absolutely. The flip side is that there are most likely many more that are acceptable health wise. My point is if we continue down this same path of prohibiting/banning/restricting PFAS/PFOA to the degree that we are, commerce and daily life as we know it will come to a screeching halt.

This bill provides a more reasonable approach to PFAS/PFOA, by ratcheting back the current definition to US EPA’s definition, which is less restrictive. It also allows for more time so that research can continue, bringing more accurate information to light rather than the current “shoot from the hip, all PFAS/PFOA are bad” approach. It also

provides clarity for manufacturers of products who may need to report PFAS/PFOA, so that they may do so without revealing trade secrets and formulation information.

For these reasons, I encourage the committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1214.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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