

**Testimony of Rev. Richard Killmer:
LD 164, "An Act to Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels under the State's Drinking
Water Rules for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances"
February 9, 2021**

Good morning Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Rev. Richard Killmer and I live in Yarmouth. I speak in support of LD 164, which establishes a maximum contaminant level for PFAS chemicals.

My own Christian faith tells me how important water is to human existence. Human beings require the natural environment for survival and for an abundant life. It is in our self-interest as well as an act of faithfulness to do what we can to protect all of creation, but especially water which is our life blood.

As you know, PFAS chemicals are getting into well water as well as other bodies of water. These forever chemicals are associated with: diagnosed high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, testicular cancer, kidney cancer, and pregnancy-induced hypertension.

The Maine PFAS Task Force Report gives an excellent summary of PFAS and Maine's history with that family of chemicals. But it does not provide an enforceable drinking water standard. There is currently no legally binding state or federal limit for PFAS in drinking water. Maine officials have been using an outdated and very high "advisory" level from the USEPA of 70 parts per trillion.

Therefore, it would be an act of wisdom to limit significantly the amount of PFAS in drinking water.

Since last year's Maine PFAS Task Force Report, Vermont formally adopted a 20 parts per trillion standard for 5 types of PFAS on March 17, 2020 and Massachusetts adopted 20 parts per trillion for 6 types on October 2, 2020. Protective standards were also adopted by New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, and Michigan where PFAS has already been detected in Lake Michigan. That means that water that is being consumed here in Maine would be considered contaminated and illegal to serve in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts. Mainers should not be ingesting water that would be considered contaminated in neighboring states.

LD 164 is based on the science and sets the maximum contaminate level at 20 parts per trillion. The time has now come to set a statewide enforceable standard for drinking water.

Though the cost of setting that standard is not known, protecting the people of our state is a necessary priority. More inaction will not provide the necessary protection. I ask you to set the standard at 20 parts per trillion by voting for LD 164.