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Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 129 – Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants

LD 184 – An Act To Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels under the State’s Drinking Water Rules for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

February 9, 2021

Sen. Claxon, Rep. Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony to the committee regarding both LD 129 and LD 184 on behalf of the Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA).

About us. MeWEA is an association of over 650 members consisting of municipal and industrial operators, consultants, students, and regulatory officials. The mission of MeWEA is to support and enhance Maine’s water environment community through promoting training opportunities; supporting balanced environmental policy and practice; promoting education and collaboration with the public to protect and enhance Maine’s water resources; and to foster a strong and resilient water environment community.

Our position. Consistent with our mission, MeWEA is offering this testimony neither for nor against LD 129 and in opposition to LD 164, but in support of science-based, locally governed water quality standards.

Please be assured that MEWEA is fully committed to clean water, especially drinking water; however, we have concerns related to how the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) will be developed. We encourage the development of water quality standards that are science-based, evaluated for costs and benefits, and consider the potential for unintended consequences that setting these limits may create. This is not achievable by simply appropriating numbers from other states. We applaud efforts to focus on a Maine-specific response, to include stakeholders, and to evaluate scientific research that is relevant and defensible. MEWEA would like to share its expertise and experiences to ensure the development of drinking water MCLs that are protective, fair, and scientifically justified.

MeWEA is opposed to any statutory approach to setting MCLs. However, we fully support a regulatory process for setting fair and justified MCLs, particularly those recommended by the PFAS Working Group that has been reviewing this issue for the past several years.

Tim Wade
Maine Water Environment Association
Second Vice President, Chair of Government Affairs Committee

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