

# DESIGNATE PFAS AS A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE

LD 1923 will protect our public health and environment by providing access to funding to clean up toxic chemicals.

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## **Toxic PFAS are contaminating our lands and waters.**

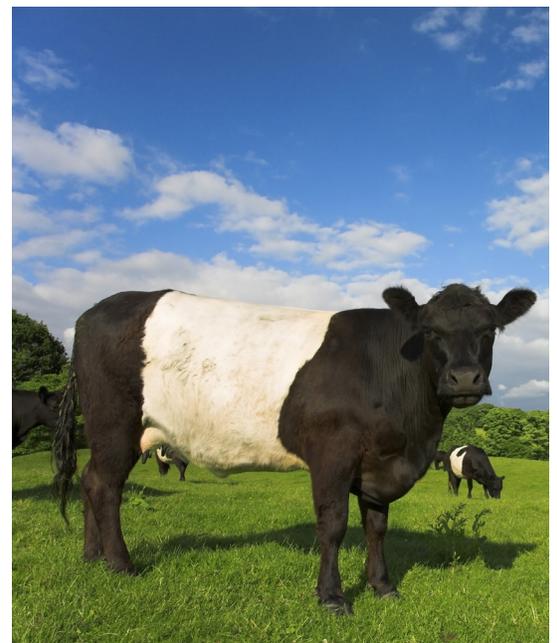
- So-called “forever chemicals,” PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) pose significant health risks, particularly for pregnant women and children. They increase the risk of certain cancers, may lower a woman’s chance of getting pregnant, may interfere with immune system responses, and have been associated with liver dysfunction and increased cholesterol.
- Because PFAS do not break down, these chemicals remain in any environment they contaminate unless cleaned up.
- PFAS-contaminated sludge was spread on fields across Maine as fertilizer. Only a handful of the approximately 500 farms that received sludge have even been tested to date.
- PFAS have also been released into the environment through discharge of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) used by firefighters, contaminating both soil and water.

## **There is funding to clean up these toxic chemicals – but DEP can’t access it.**

- The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) needs to be able to access the resources of the the state’s Uncontrolled Sites Program (USP) to help clean up PFAS and other emerging contaminants.
- Currently, the list of chemicals allowed to be addressed through the USP is limited, preventing the state from accessing those funds allocated for cleanup.
- Farmers, landowners, and communities struggling with PFAS contamination are currently left with few options for recourse, with the state unable to even start the process of determining cleanup priority.

## **The Hazardous Substances bill will allow the state to access funding for cleanup.**

- LD 1923 would allow DEP to classify PFAS and other emerging contaminants as hazardous substances under the USP.
- Classifying PFAS as a hazardous substance would make contaminated sites – including fields, farms, and water – eligible to be targeted for cleanup through USP.



**SUPPORT CLASSIFYING PFAS AS A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE.  
SUPPORT LD 1923.**

# Environmental Priorities Coalition



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 28 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

