



## NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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### **Senate Democrats Lead Efforts to Increase State Reimbursements for Municipal PFAS Remediation**

**CONCORD** - Today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee heard testimony on SB 496-FN, relative to municipal water pollution control. This bill aims to combat the public health and safety risks derived from PFAS contamination found in public drinking water allowing state aid to municipal water systems to achieve compliance with maximum contaminant limits for perfluorinated chemicals.

#### **After the hearing, Senate Democrats released the following statements:**

“We have seen the harmful effects of PFAS chemicals in cases across the state. We know of the major health risks and complications contamination can cause. Knowing these risks, it is our job to protect public health and safety - but we cannot place the financial burden of that important work solely on municipalities. By allocating funds from state lawsuits in which the state successfully sued for damages related to PFAS contamination we are setting up a long term solution that alleviates that financial burden. It’s time for the State to do our fair share to remediate PFAS in drinking water,” said prime sponsor **Senator David Watters (D-Dover)**.

**Co-sponsor Senator Martha Fuller Clark (D-Portsmouth)** added, “What we are seeing across the state is a real human cost to PFAS contamination. There is a cost in the loss of someone’s fertility, there is a loss when someone develops kidney cancer, there is a loss when people are put at risk and we have not done everything in our power to prevent it.”

**Senator Tom Sherman (D-Rye)**, whose bill SB 287 would codify the Department of Environmental Services’ PFAS MCLs into state statute, concluded, “Having science-based PFAS limits in state statute is critical to giving members of the public the peace of mind that their drinking water is safe, regardless of their zip code. Cities and towns that find unsafe levels of PFAS in their wells want to take action to protect public health and safety, but understandably they’re looking to the state to assist with costly remediation projects.”

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