

Environmental Governance: The Case of PFAS in Maine

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APPENDIX: SAMPLE INTERVIEW GUIDE

All Interviewees:

1. Tell me about your background: how did you come into your current occupation?
2. How did you first learn about PFAS in Maine?
3. We see important PFAS action happening at multiple scales, including local, state, national, and international. What scales do you work at?
4. Maine laws define PFAS as a class of chemicals. Can you describe the debate over this definition?
 - a. Were there particular stakeholders or other government entities that influenced the definition? Are debates over defining PFAS relevant for regulation of other classes of chemicals?
5. What kind of industry response have you seen towards Maine PFAS advocacy and policy, especially regarding the PFAS in products ban?
 - a. Has there been pushback from out-of-state manufacturers, whose operations will be impacted by Maine's ban?
6. How did government actors work to involve affected residents and organizations in the process of regulating PFAS?
7. What other environmental health issues is [insert stakeholder group] addressing? How have they connected to or conflicted with addressing PFAS contamination?
8. What have been Maine's most significant successes in addressing PFAS?
9. What have been the major challenges to addressing PFAS in Maine? What areas of governance are most needed right now?

Legislator/Government Representative:

10. I'm interested in your actions and/or opinions on [specific regulation or legislation]. What kind of support did you have? What opposition did you face?
11. PFAS legislation has garnered bipartisan support. Why do you think this is?
12. What characteristics of the Maine legislature (and of Maine overall) make it relatively easy to pass laws addressing PFAS?
13. How have you drawn on laws in other states to inform environmental governance in Maine?
14. The state's PFAS task force published its findings and recommendations in 2020. How did the task force prompt legislation and other actions by the state?

Residents and Non-Governmental Group:

15. What are you/your organization's goals with PFAS governance and how do you want to see current conditions change?

Lawyer:

16. Did the PFAS issue involve any unique legal approaches?
17. Does this issue point to a larger legal approach to PFAS regulation or chemicals regulation?
18. In many states, Attorneys General filed suit against companies. What are the benefits and drawbacks of taking that approach?

End of interview

1. I'd like to briefly ask you about some demographic information. You can decline to answer any question.
 - a. How do you identify in terms of your race and ethnicity?
 - b. How do you identify in terms of your gender?
 - c. What is your education level?
 - d. Are you a military veteran?
 - e. How do you describe your occupation or job title?
 - f. Do you think these categories have mattered at all in your work on PFAS?
2. Anything else we should have asked you and didn't? Anything you'd like to add?