



March 22, 2023

Ms. Blazka Zgec  
Environmental Specialist  
Office of the Commissioner  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

**Re: Response to the letter received on March 7, 2023**

JEITA (Japan Electronics & Information Technology Industries Association)  
CIAJ (Communications and Information Network Association of Japan)  
JBMIA (Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association)  
JEMA (The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association)

Dear Ms. Blazka Zgec,

Japanese 4 Electric and Electronic industrial associations (JP4EE) would like to thank the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department) for the reply to our comments for the 2nd concept draft, which was submitted on November 10, 2022. JP4EE will separately respond to the request to submit the name and contact information of manufacturers wishing for an extension.

In addition, using this opportunity, JP4EE would like again to share our concerns to the draft rule, and to propose recommendations to make the rule feasible as well as to fulfill the policy objectives.

38 M.R.S. §1614. and the Draft Rule Chapter 90 significantly affects stakeholders outside the US since the rule applies to products manufactured not only in the State of Maine, but also to products manufactured elsewhere (whether it be other States or outside the U.S.) that are ultimately sold into Maine.

We, JP4EE, consisting of 4 major Electric and Electrical Equipment (EEE) industrial associations in Japan, has more than 900 members and is a group representing Japanese EEE industry. JP4EE fully supports the policy objective “to protect the environment of the State and the health of its citizens from contamination of soil and water in the State from PFAS” and would like to contribute to examination to find realistically practical solutions to achieve the objective.

However, as we stated in our letters submitted so far, we have multiple concerns to the rule. The Japanese Government also recognizes the rule as a significant concern that could impact Japan, and has sent a request for information to the US enquiry point.

It is almost impossible to fulfill notification requirements even using the current best efforts in the industries.

As a result, many impacted EEE would not be able to be imported to the State, and in the worst case, may cause serious adverse effects to the citizens in the State. Therefore, we have proposed the following points to make the requirement realistically practicable. JP4EE would like to hear the thoughts of the Department on the points noted below. In addition, it must be noted that at least four years is needed to obtain sufficient information from the global complex supply chain.

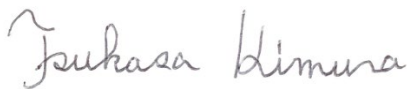
1. Excluding articles which have extremely low exposure like EEE from the scope of the rule,

Even in the case that articles in general would be in the scope,

2. Narrowing the scope of PFAS substances subject to notification to reasonable numbers and allowing manufacturers to report based on a “reasonably ascertainable information” standard, and
3. Setting an appropriate and manageable threshold (1000 ppm would be desirable from our experiences).

It would be highly appreciated if JP4EE can directly communicate with the Department to explain the continuous efforts of the EEE industries and to contribute to the rule’s objectives while establishing practicable solutions to the requirements under the rule.

Sincerely yours,



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## About Japanese electric and electronic (E&E) industrial associations:

### About JEITA

The objective of the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) is to promote the healthy manufacturing, international trade and consumption of electronics products and components in order to contribute to the overall development of the electronics and information technology (IT) industries, and thereby further Japan's economic development and cultural prosperity.

### About CIAJ

Mission of Communications and Information network Association of Japan (CIAJ). With the cooperation of member companies, CIAJ is committed to the healthy development of info-communication network industries through the promotion of info-communication technologies (ICT), and contributes to the realization of more enriched lives in Japan as well as the global community by supporting widespread and advanced uses of information in socio-economic and cultural activities.

### About JBMIA

Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association (JBMIA) is the industry organization which aims to contribute the development of the Japanese economy and the improvement of the office environment through the comprehensive development of the Japanese business machine and information system industries and rationalization thereof.

### About JEMA

The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA) The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA) consists of major Japanese companies in the electrical industry including: power & industrial systems, home appliances and related industries. The products handled by JEMA cover a wide spectrum; from boilers and turbines for power generation to home electrical appliances. Membership of 291 companies, <http://www.jema-net.or.jp/English/>