

Linda Stimpson
Portland
LD 222

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

LD 222: AFFF Take-Back Program

Dear Chairperson Doudera and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Stimpson (Portland) and I am a concerned Maine citizen. I am writing in strong support of LD 222, which creates a take-back program for AFFF to ensure safe collection, storage, and disposal of AFFF from Brunswick Landing by 2026.

On August 19th 1,450 gallons of AFFF concentrate mixed with 50,000 gallons of water leaked into Mere Brook, Harpswell Cove, and the Androscoggin River. This was not just the largest AFFF spill in Maine history—it was the sixth-largest in the nation.

The "forever" chemicals in AFFF are known to persist in the environment indefinitely, hence the name "forever," posing significant risks to human health, wildlife, and water quality. Studies link PFAS exposure to serious health effects, including cancer, immune system suppression, and developmental issues in children. This threat is especially concerning for the Brunswick area and surrounding communities.

LD 222 will create a take-back program to safely collect and store AFFF until a safe disposal method is available. This, and other related bills, take a proactive approach to preventing future contamination.

As a Maine citizen, supporter of the Friends of Casco Bay, and parent and neighbor, I'm also concerned about long-term contamination to our coastal waters in addition to the health of my Brunswick friends.

We Mainers deserve to live without fear of toxic chemicals in our drinking water and communities. Our waterways also provide us with food, jobs, and a way of life that we cherish. Other states, including New Hampshire and Colorado, have adopted safer alternatives and established collection programs. Maine can and should follow their lead.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Linda Stimpson