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LD 222

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Committee on Environment and Natural Resources^[SEP] Maine Legislature

Re: Support for LD 400 Reporting Requirement, LD 222: AFFF Take-Back Program, and LD 407 Brunswick Landing Cleanup by 2026.

Dear Chairperson Doudera and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cammy Moraros, and I am a concerned Maine citizen. I am writing in strong support of LD 400, which seeks to establish reporting requirements for AFFF storage, LD 222, which creates a take-back program for AFFF to ensure safe collection, storage, and disposal, and LD 407, which ensures the removal of all remaining AFFF from Brunswick Landing by 2026.

Why This Matters^[SEP] The August 2024 spill at Brunswick Landing was a sobering reminder of the dangers posed by AFFF. As you know, 1,450 gallons of AFFF concentrate mixed with 50,000 gallons of water leaked into the environment, contaminating 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 toxic PFAS chemicals in AFFF are known to persist in the environment indefinitely, 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 communities like mine, which rely on clean water for drinking, recreation, and livelihoods.

The Solutions Proposed in These Bills

LD 400 establishes a critical reporting system for locations storing AFFF, empowering the Maine DEP to monitor and address potential risks. LD 222 takes this one step further by creating a take-back program to safely collect and store AFFF until a safe disposal method is available. LD 407 ensures the removal of all remaining AFFF from Brunswick Landing by 2026, eliminating the risk of another major spill at this site. Together, these bills take a proactive approach to preventing future contamination and protecting Maine's waterways.

My Personal Connection^[SEP] I chose to live in Maine, "Vacationland" whose motto is "The Way Life Should Be." Just saying these out loud almost melts the stress and worries away. It brings to mind images of fishing in the rivers, streams and ocean waters then cooking up your fresh catch for a tasty meal. Swimming or wading in the cool refreshing waters. Packing food grown in a local garden for a tasty picnic lunch. From a very young age, I have spent time on Casco Bay. For those of you who don't know, the waters of Casco Bay encompass Cape Elizabeth to slightly beyond the New Meadows River. This bay boasts many islands, coves, inlets, bays, tributaries, marshlands and more. One online source quoted that Casco Bay is 229 square miles. Many out of state visitors flock to Maine to enjoy the outdoors, swim, fish, hunt, boat. This state, in my opinion, risks losing that tourism interest and revenue if people who may want to visit are also concerned about the fallout from the AFFF spill in August of 2024 and subsequent actions or inactions to effectively, efficiently and completely manage that spill and work diligently to avoid another similar disaster. I remain deeply concerned about the risks and long term impact to the environment and ALL living creatures post the August 2024 AFFF PFAS spill disaster. Am I, my family, my friends going to be safe in the waters of and around Casco Bay? Will fish caught in the cool refreshing water be safe for consumption? Will I be able to eat the foods

grown locally by farmers? I am deeply saddened to think that the answers to all of these questions may now be...no. Are we really willing to risk how Maine is viewed? Do we want it to become known as “The Way Life Should HAVE been” or “Vacate-land?” I think not and this is why in part I support the below Legislation.

Why I Support This Legislation

Protecting Public Health: Mainers deserve to live without fear of toxic chemicals in their drinking water and communities.

Environmental Stewardship: Maine’s waterways are central to our way of life.

Ensuring they remain clean and healthy is not optional—it is a responsibility.

Proven Alternatives Exist: Other states, including New Hampshire and Colorado, have adopted safer alternatives and established collection programs. Maine can and should follow their lead.

In conclusion, LD 400, LD 222, and LD 407 are essential steps to safeguarding Maine’s environment, protecting public health, and ensuring responsible management of AFFF. I urge you to vote in favor of these bills and take action to prevent further harm from PFAS chemicals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,^[L]^[SEP]Cammy Moraros^[L]^[SEP]

Concerned Maine Citizen