

February 23, 2025

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
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 Jane Disney, and I am a concerned citizen and PFAS researcher in Maine. As a concerned citizen living in a rural area with no clear PFAS source, I discovered PFAS in my drinking water. The level is 15 ng/L, below the Maine standard of 20 ng/L for 6 PFAS, but still caused me enough concern to install a whole house filtration system. I had my blood tested for PFAS and discovered that I have 15 ng/mL (not L, but mL, a thousand times greater amount). In addition, I did a correlation analysis and confirmed that the PFAS in my blood is highly correlated with the PFAS in my drinking water.

Even though my water was below the state standard, I was exposed to it for long enough to fall into the range between 2 and 20 ng/mL, which, according to “PFAS Testing and Concentrations to Inform Clinical Care of Exposed Patients” in *Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up* published by the National Academies Press **“There is a potential for adverse effects, especially in sensitive populations, between 2 and 20 ng/mL.”** Further, it is recommended that “following the usual standard of care, clinicians should also prioritize screening for dyslipidemia, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, and breast cancer based on age and other risk factors.” (1)

Having lived in my home for over 30 years, my concern is more for the children I raised here than for myself; I can only imagine the concerns for families who have found out that due to nearby use of AFFF, inappropriate storage of AFFF, or a spill of AFFF their drinking water has become contaminated with PFAS.

The AFFF spill at Brunswick Landing was obvious, and testing was done to confirm the environmental impact and risk of exposure of residents to PFAS in their drinking water. However, the effect of the spill will have a generational impact in terms of contamination that will never go away, the ongoing vigilance and expense required for ongoing testing and maintenance of household filtration systems, and the psychological impact of knowing your family was in the path of this type of environmental contamination event.

Other contamination of groundwater from past uses or improper storage of AFFF are not as obvious and people may have been exposed over longer periods of time without knowing it. Even at lower levels of contamination, Maine residents, like my family and me, may be accumulating PFAS in their bodies. I have tested my drinking water for all types of anticipated contaminants over the years but I never knew that PFAS was something that I should be testing for.

The least we can do to prevent unnecessary environmental, economic, physical, and psychological harm is to pass these three bills and ensure that AFFF storage facilities are properly monitored and AFFF can be removed from sites where storage isn't safe. LD 400 establishes a critical reporting system for locations storing AFFF, empowering the Maine DEP to

monitor and address potential risks. LD 222 creates 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, local residents whose wells are at risk, and future generations of Mainers who may access environments, or purchase homes within these areas.

Other states, including New Hampshire and Colorado, have adopted safer alternatives to AFFF 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,
Jane E. Disney, Ph.D.
Resident, Bar Harbor, Maine

1. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Health and Medicine Division, Division on Earth and Life Studies, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, and Committee on the Guidance on PFAS Testing and Health Outcomes. "PFAS Testing and Concentrations to Inform Clinical Care of Exposed Patients." In *Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up*. National Academies Press (US), 2022. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK584705/>.