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February 21, 2025

Senator Denise Tepler Representative Victoria Doudera Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

RE: LD 407 – Brunswick Landing Clean-up by 2026

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Brunswick Town Council to express Brunswick's support of LD 407 to require removal of A-FFF (Aqueous Film-Forming Foam) from Brunswick Landing by January 1, 2026 and the prohibition of its use after that date.

The Problem: On August 19, 2024, the Brunswick Executive Airport and surrounding properties that were part of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station (including land outside of the BNAS boundaries) were subject to a toxic spill of 1450 gallons of A-FFF concentrate mixed with 50,000 gallons of water. This toxic mixture has contaminated fresh waterways including the Androscoggin River and coastal watersheds which flow into Brunswick's saltwater working waterfront. The long-term effects on these waterways and the communities in Brunswick and the Mid-coast Region that rely on them are still being investigated.

At Brunswick Executive Airport in recent years there have been 3 A-FFF spills: in Hangar 6 (2012); in Hangar 4 (2019); and, again in Hangar 4 (in 2024). Even with mitigation efforts currently underway, there is no guarantee that harmful spills or leaks will not occur again. Facilities like Maine's airports and fire departments that store AFFF are at risk of leaks and spills as long as these chemicals are in place. No safe removal or disposal options are currently in place for Brunswick Landing.

The Solution: Remove and properly dispose of all remaining A-FFF from Brunswick Landing by January 1, 2026. This action will eliminate further contamination risk to our environment and our citizens' health.

Sincerely,

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Chair, Brunswick Town Council