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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 Dana Bateman and I am a resident, parent and property owner in Brunswick. 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.

The spill in August 2024 was an avoidable disaster, made worse by the poor oversight over the past few years. This huge spill is affecting our water, soil, health and, also our property values and resale prospects. The threat of increased cancer risk and polluted water for years to come is unacceptable and demands action by the legislature.

We need the work proposed in these bills to happen as soon as possible. We need better reporting, a plan to remove what we have left of this toxic foam, and to store it safely until it can be fully removed. We are all extremely concerned that another spill could happen at any time. One of our local councillors suggested we would be wise to halt the use of the airport rather than risk another spill - which tells me just how serious of a problem this all is.

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,
Dana Bateman