

Ralph F. Keyes  
85 Old Pennellville Road  
Brunswick, ME 04011

24 February 2025

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Maine Legislature

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

Dear Chairperson Doudera, Chairperson Tepler and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 400, LD 222 and LD 407, the three bills before your committee that address a comprehensive inventory, safe collection, safe storage and the removal of Aqueous Film-forming Foam (AFFF). AFFF contains numerous PFAS compounds, many of which are suspected to cause ill health in humans (including cancers) and in other organisms in the ecosystem.

Rachel Carson's Silent Spring was published in 1962. This book called attention to the harmful carcinogenic impacts that the use of DDT was having on wildlife and humans. It was an impetus for changes in the widespread use of chemical pesticides. I believe today we are at a similar time in terms of our understanding of the use of PFAS compounds. We need leadership that will reign in and regulate the use of these carcinogens. The three bills before you are a start. Carson entitled her book to call attention to a springtime when no birds sing. Let us address the AFFF/PFAS issue today, before we have a sequel to Silent Spring entitled "Malignant May".

Our residence in Brunswick is adjacent to Brunswick Landing (the former Brunswick Naval Air Station). We are thought to be on an adjacent aquifer. I can only imagine the stress and fear we would be experiencing were we drawing water from a well known to be in the impact area of the August spill. I taught Earth/Environmental Science for more than three decades at a neighboring high school. Please, for the sake of the children I taught, their children and their grandchildren who are now in our area schools, and for the sake of all life in our terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems, let's start to mitigate the damage we are causing by the use of PFAS compounds. The three bills you are considering are a beginning.

Thank you for your consideration,

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