

Edward Nachamie
Orono, ME
LD 400
Wednesday, February 26th, 2025

To: Representative Daniel Ankeles, and honorable members of the committee,
From: Edward Nachamie

Re: Testimony in Support of Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate

My name is Edward Nachamie and I live in Orono, Maine. I attend the University of Maine at Orono and am studying Ecology and Environmental Sciences. For the past 5 months, I have been working on a paper chronicling the legislative history of PFAS regulation in Maine and throughout the United States. My research has shown me that these compounds pose a profound and existential threat to the health of millions of Americans. The spill at Brunswick Naval Base that occurred in August of 2024 is of particular concern to me considering it was the largest AFFF fire fighting foam spill in Maine's history and the sixth-largest in the U.S. in the past 30 years. This spill threatens the integrity of surface waters and their surrounding ecosystems as well as adjacent drinking water sources. The health impacts of PFAS compounds are clear and alarming: ranging from increased risk of certain types of cancer to decreased immune system function and endocrine disruption. The threat that these compounds pose to public health and the environment is serious and alarming. By compiling a statewide inventory of AFFF concentrate, the state will be better prepared to prevent future spills of these dangerous compounds and reduce their proliferation in the environment. Not only would this inventory be useful in identifying areas of concern throughout the state, it would also ensure that stockpiles of this dangerous concentrate are not accidentally released or unaccounted for. Please support and make sure that LD 400 passes.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Nachamie