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Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine Legislature

Re: Support for (1) LD 400 Reporting Requirement, (2) LD 222: AFFF Take-Back Program, and (3) LD 407 Brunswick Landing Cleanup by 2026

Dear Chairperson Doudera and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Conwell, and I am a Brunswick resident who is deeply concerned about PFAS contamination in Maine, generally, and in Brunswick, specifically.

To enhance public safety, please pass the following three bills during the current legislative session, LD 400, LD 222, and LD 407.

Why This Matters

The August 2024 AFFF spill at Brunswick Landing was a catastrophe. The toxic PFAS chemicals in AFFF will persist in the local environment indefinitely, posing significant risks to human health, wildlife, and water quality. Studies link PFAS exposure to serious health effects, including cancer, immune system suppression, and developmental issues in children. The danger is especially concerning for communities like mine, which rely on clean water for drinking, recreation, and livelihoods.

Over the past few years, the government of Maine has demonstrated both an understanding of the dangers PFAS pose and a willingness to deal responsibly with these threats. These three bills represent another and fully justified step in dealing with the dangers of PFAS in this state, complementing each other by establishing reporting requirements for AFFF storage; developing a take-back program for AFFF to ensure safe collection, storage, and disposal; and seeing to the removal of all remaining AFFF from Brunswick Landing by 2026.

Conclusion

Although the August spill has not poisoned my well or endangered my livelihood, it has had these and other awful impacts on fellow citizens of Brunswick. People living in Brunswick and throughout the state desperately need assistance in coping with the danger from PFAS, and I hope you will agree that we need to involve the full power of the State of Maine to make things right.

Thank you very much.

David Conwell