

Sandra Scholar  
Greenville Jct  
LD 222

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera & Members of the ENR Committee:

We are full time Maine residents and registered voters. We support passage of LD 400, LD 222, and LD 407, 3 bills that are designed to transition Maine away from using Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), a toxic firefighting foam that contains PFAS and that can be devastating to the environment.

LD 400 would direct the Office of the State Fire Marshall to conduct a full inventory of the state's remaining AFFF. LD 222 would establish a statewide take-back program for AFFF that is similar to other Maine product stewardship programs. LD 407 would ban AFFF from all properties owned, leased or managed by the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, or MRRA, the quasi-governmental agency that has been managing the Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) base property since its 2011 closure.

Years ago when we decided to buy a winter residence in Brunswick we considered buying a place on or near the BNAS but a friend told us about the PFAS issue on the base. We decided we didn't want to risk exposure, and purchased a home elsewhere in town. Since that time we have heard from people who were not so lucky – people whose wells have been poisoned, one person who spent over \$30,000 of their own money to transition away from well water to town water, people who worried about their exposure to PFAS, or the health of their grandchildren or pets. Though Brunswick appears to be ground zero for PFAS/AFFF spills and exposure, these chemicals have poisoned the environment all over Maine, and we need to stop using them.

One of the primary purposes of a government is to protect people – to secure for its citizens a safe and healthy environment. This means not only cleaning up past chemical leaks and exposures, but also preventing future ones. We know these chemicals are toxic, and we know there are safer alternatives. Please do fulfill your obligations to the citizens of Maine. Stop the use of these hazardous materials, and transition to safer alternatives.

Please to vote Ought to Pass for all three bills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Albert M. Manville, II, PhD, in Wildlife Ecology and Management  
Sandra Scholar, Esq.