

Irl Rosner
Brunswick
LD 407

My name is Irl Rosner. I have lived on the Princes Point Road in Brunswick with my family since 1996. I moved to Maine in 1988 directly from training in NYC and have been a practicing anesthesiologist spending the majority of my career at Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick.

I was 8 years old in 1965 living in NJ when Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D-WA), chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, introduced S. 559 requiring cigarette packages to bear a conspicuous statement: "Warning: Continual Cigarette Smoking May be Hazardous to Your Health." At that time cigarettes could be purchased by anyone regardless of age and smoked anywhere. There was no term yet for second hand smoke. Although people were routinely dying from the effects of smoking there was still significant opposition from the tobacco industry and tobacco growing states dangerously and irresponsibly claiming there was no direct evidence of harm from cigarettes. By the time I was in high school the word "may" was removed from the now black box warning from the Surgeon General. Depending on what country you're in that now ubiquitous black box warning reads anything from Smoking Kills to Surgeon General's Warning: Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy. All of the same information we knew in 1965.

As I mentioned I live on the Princes Point Road in Brunswick. My home is also on Harpswell Cove. We share the same aquifer as the Brunswick Landing and are directly downstream of the runways where the PFAS spill occurred this past August. My well and the wells of most of our neighbors have tested positive for the dangerous forever chemicals involved in the spill and currently being stored in various locations on the Brunswick Landing. Harpswell Cove is now off limits for clamming and fishing. I have the means to have a filtration system installed at my home to mitigate the contamination.

I don't believe all of my neighbors that have been effected are in the same position.

It is my impression that those in a position to have prevented the spill and to act responsibly going forward particularly the US Navy, the State of Maine and MRRA have so far acted dangerously and irresponsibly either by ignoring or being insensitive to the health concerns of the effected population like the tobacco industry and tobacco growing states in the 1950s and 60s.

I urge you to act responsibly, be on the right side of history and pass the three bills presented today by Brunswick Representative Dan Ankeles which will be a big step in the right direction of protecting our communities.

Respectfully,

Irl L. Rosner, M.D.