

Jane Nichols-Ecker
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LD 222

To the Environmental and Natural Resource Committee:

I am writing as a concerned citizen who wishes to support bill LD 222, to establish a take back and disposal program for PFAS, PFOS and other related chemicals from all sites in Maine. We have witnessed a terrific accidental release of AFFF from a fire suppression system at the former Naval Air Station. The spill greatly surpasses any other such incident in Maine, and is one of the largest and most extensive in the country. These are unusual chemicals, chemicals that do not break down on their own or by conventional methods into individual common molecules, but persist in the environment forever in the form that they are when manufactured. Until a method can be developed that could potentially destroy them, we must do our best to collect and isolate these materials. Even identifying their presence throughout Maine will be a challenge, as well as deciding how best to store or dispose of them until there is technology to destroy them. It has been known for many years that they are extremely harmful to plants, animals and humans-likely to every living thing in our natural world. It would be best if the manufacture of these substances could be dramatically reduced or eliminated, but until that happens, we must, at a minimum, collect and contain what already exists in our environment.