

Shelley Fritz
Brunswick
LD 400

Upon recently arriving in Brunswick, I have been extremely concerned at the situation that has unfolded here regarding the August 19th spill and the relevant events and decisions that both preceded, and followed the disaster.

After becoming intimately aware of the situation, I have found the response at every level of government involved to be appallingly negligent and derelict of duty to look out for and steward the environment, and the well being of the citizens of Brunswick and Maine more broadly.

It concerns me greatly that appropriate action to remediate the situation has been lacking throughout relative to what needs to happen to ensure the health and well-being of the community to the extent that it is possible in recognition of the fact that the toxic mix of forever chemicals and pollutants released on August 19 have yielded irreversible and chronic, lasting damage to the environment and human health.

In light of this, what can be done needs to be done, and this bill is an effort to do just that, to reduce and eliminate the possibility of further, and even more severe damage from toxic forever chemicals that, as their name indicates, leave lasting damage to the environment in which they are exposed and have detectable and documented harms to human health.

It is understandable that cost is a factor, however the deleterious cost to human health and environment not only deserve to be taken precedent for ethical, moral, and logical reasons, it is also for the sake of fiscal responsibility and looking out for the economy of Maine.

If this issue of forever chemical toxicity pouring into the environment of Brunswick, and Maine more generally, continues to be neglected in full or in part, Maine is exposing itself to serious potential financial harm and that concerns me greatly about what that will do to the economic prosperity of Maine and the economic well-being of Brunswick.

Maine needs to do what is right and remove AFFF and do what is necessary to protect its citizens so there can be hope for a healthy, thriving economy moving forward, and that is why it is an important and sacred duty to pass this legislation and then logistically work to make ends meet.

It is necessary to pass this legislation, so that Maine is no longer under such dire danger posed by the economic and health costs that this has, and would likely continue to cause if AFFF is continued to be allowed to contaminate beautiful Maine. Current and future generations will look back at this time, and this legislature to see if the right thing was done and it will be noted in history.

Everyone, people, animals, those who make a living working in harmony with the natural environment, deserve to have safe drinking water, safe and uncontaminated natural spaces, and hope for a bright future.

You have the opportunity to further ensure the health and well-being of the citizenry of Maine, and I implore you to do so when the opportunity to do so is ripe, ready, and all that is needed is a willingness to take action and follow through.

Much more than the cost of implementing this legislation would be not only the human health costs, the environmental costs, but the costs of losing residents who care about a safe and clean environment and the right to be healthy and reproduce without threat of chemical poisoning from forever chemicals that come with such dire costs. I ask that you heed the science, the wisdom, and the opportunity of the moment and do what is right on behalf of everyone in Maine, and the generations yet to come and pass this bill. It will be worth it.