

Haley Bernier
129 Jordan Avenue
Brunswick Maine, 04011
haley.bernier28@gmail.com

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Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine Legislature

Re: Support for LD400 Reporting Requirement, LD222: AFFF Take-Back Program, and
LD 407 Brunswick Landing Cleanup by 2026.

Dear Chairperson Doudera and Members of the Committee,

My name is Haley Bernier and I am a resident of Brunswick, Maine. I live right outside of the North end of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station and have lived at my house since 2008. Right next to my house is a wellfield, which is part of our town water district. Wells in the Jordan Avenue upper and lower wellfields have been contaminated for many years due to forever chemicals from groundwater migration from the former Navy Base. I have been sick with ailments for over 10 years, many ailments that align with PFAS poisoning. I strongly believe my illnesses, and my family's illnesses and diagnosis are related to past and current contamination of the former Naval Air Station. My neighbors also are dealing with cancer, neurological issues, autism, adhd, autoimmune disorders, and many more illnesses where we have struggled to find the root cause. At this time, many of us Brunswick residents who are affected by the contamination, are spending their own money to get blood tests, water tests, and any other tests we may need to help us understand what is in our backyards that is making us sick.

I also worked on the former Navy Base from 2016-2019. I worked at a special purpose private school where our toilets backed up almost weekly. Myself, my co-workers, and children all breathed the backed up sewer air throughout the time I worked there. At one time there was construction about 40 feet from where the children played to replace sewer lines. Children would play on the mounds of PFAS riddled soil. There was no tape or any warnings that the soil was dangerous to play on. Children with autism also tend to have conditions called Pica, where they eat non-edible items like rock salt and sand. I have no doubt some of the children ingested contaminated soil. My oldest also attended this school since he was 24 months old. He was also exposed to the contaminated environment around him, in addition to being affected prenatally, as I was drinking town water when our town and residential wells were contaminated.

My youngest son went to a licensed home daycare on Coombs road. I loved this daycare because they were outside all the time. They were right next to Puriton road, which is an access road near the contaminated ponds on the south end of the former base. There is no doubt in my mind, with him playing in that area and drinking residential well water, that he was and is contaminated. He was born with a congenital heart murmur and skull deformities, which are very common conditions with being poisoned with PFAS chemicals.

Because myself and my family have been affected with the extreme contamination, and will continue to be affected for many years, I fully support **LD 400**, **LD 222**, and **LD 407**, as they are essential to help support Brunswick citizens like myself. Our ecosystem, wildlife, and fish will also receive health benefits with these bills being passed.

Thank you for listening to my personal story and your consideration for LD400, LD222, LD407.

Haley Stone Bernier
129 Jordan Avenue
Brunswick, Maine 04011