

Regina Snyder
Harpwell
LD 400

Regina Snyder
477 Harpswell Is Rd
Harpwell ME 04079

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Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine Legislature

Re: Support for LD 400 Reporting Requirement

Dear Chairperson Doudera and Members of the Committee,
My name is Regina Snyder and I am a resident of Harpswell. I am writing in strong support of LD 400, which creates reporting requirements for Aqueous Film-forming Foam (AFFF) to ensure that we know where this toxic chemical is kept.

Why This Matters

The contamination caused by these chemicals is an ongoing issue, and the August 2024 spill at Brunswick Landing was a sobering reminder of the dangers posed by AFFF. As you know, 1,450 gallons of AFFF concentrate mixed with 50,000 gallons of water leaked into the environment, contaminating Mere Brook, Harpswell Cove, and the Androscoggin River. This was the largest AFFF spill in Maine history, and was entirely preventable if there had been programs in place to remove it from potential release into our environment.

The toxic PFAS chemicals in AFFF are known to persist in the environment indefinitely, posing significant risks to human health, wildlife, and water quality. Studies link PFAS exposure to serious health effects, including cancer, immune system suppression, and developmental issues in children. This threat is especially concerning for communities like mine, which rely on clean, fresh ground water, and clean waters in our bays and sounds for recreation and livelihoods.

The Solutions Proposed in LD 400

LD 400 establishes a critical reporting system for locations storing AFFF, empowering the Maine DEP to monitor and address potential risks. Its associated bill, LD 222, which I also support, takes this one step further by creating a take-back program to safely collect and store AFFF until a safe disposal method is available. LD 407 should also be passed to ensure the removal of all remaining AFFF from Brunswick Landing by 2026, eliminating the risk of another major spill at this site. Monitoring and removing these chemicals into a safe program will help prevent future contamination and protect Maine's waterways.

Why I Support This Legislation

- Protecting Public Health: Mainers deserve to live without fear of cancer-causing chemicals in their ground water and fish.
- Environmental Stewardship: Maine's waterways are central to our way of life. Ensuring they remain clean and healthy is our responsibility which you can help ensure by passing LD 400 and its sister bills LD 222 and LD407.
- Proven Alternatives Exist: Other states, including New Hampshire, have adopted safer alternatives and established collection programs. Maine can and should follow their lead.

In conclusion, LD 400, LD 222, and LD 407 are essential steps to safeguarding Maine's environment, protecting public health, and ensuring responsible management of AFFF. I urge you to vote in favor of these bills and take action to prevent further harm from PFAS chemicals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Regina Snyder