

Regina Snyder
Harpowell
LD 407

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477 Harpswell Is Rd
Harpowell ME 04079

Feb 26, 2025

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine Legislature

Re: Support for LD 407 An Act to Prohibit the Use of Aqueous Film-forming Foam at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station

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 407, which prohibits the discharge, testing, storage or other uses of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) on any property leased or owned by the authority. Why This Matters

As you know, the August 2024 spill at Brunswick Landing property owned/leased by the authority was a sad reminder of what can happen when stored AFFF is released. 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 a program in place to remove it from the former Naval Air Station.

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 my 'downstream' community, where we rely on clean, fresh ground water, and clean waters in our bays and sounds for recreation and livelihoods. This bill is doubly important because Harpswell has no authority over the NAS property in Brunswick and has no other way to prevent further spills into our waters.

Why I support this Legislation and the other two bills, LD 222 and LD 400 addressing AFFF

- 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 407 and the broader reporting and storage bills, LD 222 and LD400.

In conclusion, LD 407, LD 222, and LD 400 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