

Christine Foster
Brunswick
LD 1637

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

I am writing in support of LD 1637, An Act to Reform the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA).

As a Brunswick Landing resident, I have witnessed discrepancies between MRRA's public reports and the reality on the ground.

If I didn't live here, I might be swayed by MRRA's glowing annual reports to the Governor.

I might believe the massive spill of PFAS-containing firefighting foam last August was just an unfortunate, one-time accident.

I might trust that MRRA has learned from this incident and is now prioritizing public safety and the environment.

I might have confidence that MRRA has the expertise to safely operate an airport, carefully craft redevelopment to integrate new construction with existing residential communities and businesses, and protect residents and workers from exposure to PFAS and other contaminants.

But I live in Brunswick, and believe MRRA has a troubling pattern of disregard for community safety and resident concerns.

More than eight months after the August 2024 foam spill, MRRA has not shut off the toxic foam in all airport hangars, despite the Town of Brunswick's September 2024 resolutions and the recommendation from MRRA's own consultant in February 2025 to do so "immediately."

Violations in fire suppression systems went uncorrected for over a year before the spill.

MRRA provided an incorrect inventory of remaining foam, another sign of its poor stewardship of these highly toxic chemicals it inherited from the Navy.

MRRA denied the existence of PFAS leaking from Hangar 6 into the sewer system until a local citizen group's independent testing confirmed contamination in the oil/water separator pits.

MRRA refused to help residents with water wells at risk (in the likely path of the spill) with costs of water testing, remediation, or even bottled water.

The public still has not been informed of the cause of the August 2024 spill. Just last month, there was another spill, this time of jet fuel.

Plans to build a sewage sludge digester near a daycare facility could worsen pollution in our already-overburdened community.

Brunswick Landing residents promised a vibrant residential community now face the reality of pothole-ridden roads, unsightly mountains of dirt, and inadequate infrastructure.

While we cannot reverse the environmental damage that has occurred under MRRA's watch (these are, after all, "forever chemicals"), increased oversight and reform could help prevent future accidents and chemical exposures as a result of MRRA's ongoing operations.

LD 1637 could help give a voice to residents in this "Town-within-a-Town" run by MRRA, and the nearby communities affected.

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1637.

Christine Foster
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