



Town of Brunswick, Maine

INCORPORATED 1739

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

85 UNION STREET

BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011-2418

TELEPHONE 207-725-6659

FAX 207-725-6663

May 1, 2025

Senator Chip Curry
Representative Traci Gere
Members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee

Re: LD 1637 – An Act to Reform the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Committee Members:

Please accept my testimony as Town Manager of the Town of Brunswick, representing the experience of the Town's staff and elected officials in relation to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA).

As you know, the accidental release of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) in Hangar 4 occurred on August 19, 2024. This event was a shock to Brunswick, and the confusion and fear that followed brought many of us together in new ways. Even as a newly appointed Town Manager (July 15, 2024), I am proud of how Town officials and staff worked to improve communication, increase transparency and collaboration, and make environmental issues a top priority.

During the weeks following the release, the Town Council Chair and the MRRA Board Chair met often and shared resources to work toward our common goals. These included addressing the immediate concerns around the AFFF release, finding a path forward to reduce the health and safety risks associated with AFFF, and improving communication between all interested parties in order to disseminate timely and accurate information. Even now, nine months later, these meetings are continuing every two weeks, with the elected leadership, MRRA's new Executive Director and myself working together on multiple fronts. Town staff works with MRRA staff regularly on many issues, and we understand that Brunswick Landing and Brunswick Executive Airport are a shared resource and responsibility. I have appreciated working closely with MRRA's Executive Director Daniel Stevenson, and I feel confident that the collaboration that has grown out of the August 19th event will continue to serve our community well.

To further collaboration with and to support MRRA, the Town Council endorsed several applicants to the MRRA Board of Trustees. We appreciate that two of these were submitted by the Governor, approved by this committee, and confirmed by the Senate in January. The Council expects to support additional candidates to the Governor for consideration, and I am grateful to this committee for its thoughtful consideration of the composition of the MRRA Board.

Sincerely,

Julia AC Henze
Town Manager