



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly in support of
**LD 407, "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Aqueous Film-forming Foam at the
Former Brunswick Naval Air Station"**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Good afternoon Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and fellow distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook. I am here today to support **LD 407, An Act to Prohibit the Use of Aqueous Film-forming Foam at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station.**

Outside of the legislature, I worked as a farmhand for an oyster farm in Brunswick where some of the best oysters in Maine are grown. The disastrous aqueous film-forming foam spill that happened at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station not only threatens the health of the environment and our community members, but it is also a direct threat on the livelihoods of Brunswick's fishermen, shellfish harvesters, and sea farmers. This is a key part of Brunswick's economy and maritime identity. The spill and release of PFAS into the ecosystem threatens that.

The town of Brunswick, for the past decade, has planted a few millions clams in a hardshell clam propagation area in Harpswell Cove. After a decade of work, they were ready to establish a commercially viable bed, but this spill has threatened that work.

In order to protect community members and Brunswick's commercial and intertidal fisherman and sea farmers, we need to prohibit the use of aqueous film-forming foam on any property leased or owned by the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, including the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I urge my colleagues on this committee to vote "ought to pass" on **LD 407.**

District 127: Westbrook