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February 25, 2025

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine Legislature

Re: Support for LD 400 Reporting Requirement, LD 222 AFFF Take-Back Program, and LD 407 Brunswick Landing Cleanup by 2026

Dear Chairperson Doudera and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bruce Kantner, and I am a resident of Brunswick. I live 2 ½ miles from the south end of the runway at The Landing. When I learned of the AFFF spill last August 19th my first thought was for the safety of our neighborhood water, which comes from Brunswick wells just north of the airport. Then I wondered if I could continue bicycling to the Landing while breathing the polluted PFAS air and road dust? As photos appeared of the PFAS foam blowing in the wind and people in hazmat suits cleaning it up, I felt fearful for the safety of those walking in the poison foam and of people working, living, and playing nearby. How could this have happened at a Superfund Site set up 38 years ago that was supposed to be carefully monitored and protected? I had assumed that toxic legacy chemicals—and especially Forever PFAS—would have been removed years ago.

Six months have passed since the PFAS spill disaster, and there's still AFFF foam stored in Hangar 6. The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, MRRA, continues to tell us citizens and our Town Council that they intend to shut off all AFFF systems and remove the remaining PFAS as soon as possible—maybe even in the next 90 days. The risk of another accidental spill is too great for Brunswick's water supply, for the private wells of residents on and around the Landing, and for the health dangers to people, animals, and the whole environment.

I was just starting college in 1962 when Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was published. She described how DDT entered the food chain, accumulated like poison in the fatty tissues of animals, including humans, and caused cancer and genetic damage. At the time DDT was the most powerful pesticide in the world and killed hundreds of kinds of insects, marine animals, birds, and other wildlife. Shortly before Rachel's death from breast cancer in 1964, she remarked, "Man's attitude toward nature is today critically important simply because we have now acquired a fateful power to alter and destroy nature. But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself. [Humankind] is challenged as never before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves."

We likewise are challenged today in Maine and Brunswick to rid our state, communities, and environment of Forever PFAS chemicals. I ask you to prove that we can be mature, wise, and caring for all beings and nature by supporting the passage of these three bills: LD 407, to prohibit the use of AFFF at the Landing; LD 400, to carry out a statewide inventory of AFFF; and LD 222, to ensure safe AFFF collection, storage, and disposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Kantner