

02/26/2025 Testimony for LD222, LD400, and LD407

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Good morning. My name is Robert MacEwen and I live on Princes Point Rd, in Brunswick. I am testifying as an impacted community member as well as a member of Brunswick United for a Safe Environment. I urge you to vote for passage of LD222, LD400, and LD407.

I am 76 years old and retired. I have lived in Brunswick for eighteen years. My property is located on the east side of Harpswell Cove about three miles south of Hanger 4 on the former navy base.

After the August spill, total PFAS test results at test site SW-67, which is right across the cove from my property, ranged from 303 to 13,325 PPT. These levels are well above the EPA's recommended limit of 250 PPT to protect aquatic life. Recent lab results show that muscles and hard shell clams have elevated levels of PFAS in their tissue.

The above events prompted many of us who live on Princes Point to have our wells tested for PFAS. Out of sixteen wells tested, fourteen showed levels of PFAS above the EPA limit with some approaching or even over the Maine DEP limit. I have had my well tested four times with results ranging from 4.1 to 9.42 PPT. Although these levels are not extremely higher than the EPA limit, I am still concerned for the following reasons:

1. The AFFF fire suppression systems are still active in hangars 5 and 6 on the base property. I have **NO** confidence that MRRA is capable of, or even interested in, maintaining these systems

properly. They have already been caught lying about the results of the 2023 inspections that failed both Hanger 4 and 6.

2. Just last week at the Brunswick Town Council meeting, MRRA stated that there are around 5700 gallons of AFFF concentrate currently stored on the base property. In addition, there is an unknown amount of AFFF in barrels scattered across the state at town Fire Departments and some commercial sites. We need to get an inventory of all of it and come up with a plan to collect and dispose of it before the containers start leaking or worse.
3. Historically, the Harpswell Cove mud flats have proven to be a major contributor to the annual shellfish catch. They were scheduled to reopen last fall but have had to remain closed due to the August 19 spill. It is questionable whether or not they will ever be able to open again because of high PFAS levels.
4. I have installed a PFAS filter system in my home to make sure that our drinking water is safe, but there is nothing that I can do to protect against the AFFF and other toxic waste emanating from the base into Harpswell Cove.

In closing, PFAS compounds are becoming more prevalent all over the state of Maine, the USA, and the world. We can't afford to ignore this threat to the environment. Please take action by passing all three of these bills.

Thank you