

Members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 1637 “**An Act to Reform the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.**” I would like to share a personal experience that highlights the urgent need for LD1637. On August 19, 2024, the AFFF Chemical Disaster at Brunswick Airport, managed by MRRA, destroyed my home's private well. We had to spend over \$35,000 from our retirement savings to connect to the town water supply. This financial and emotional strain could have been avoided with better accountability and environmental protection. Many neighbors on RTE 123 and Princes Point Road face similar hardships due to MRRA's negligence.

1. Environmental Stewardship: The bill mandates MRRA to engage in environmental stewardship, crucial for preventing future disasters. MRRA's deal with VIRIDI to develop a PFAS sludge digester at Brunswick Landing highlights negligence, as the digester might contaminate water systems and relies on trucking in PFAS-laden sludge from other states. Brunswick desperately needs MRRA to be monitored and held accountable.

2. Board of Trustees Membership: The bill increases the board of trustees to 14 members, adding a second commissioner appointed by the Governor, a voting member appointed by the Brunswick town council chair, and a nonvoting member who is a Brunswick or Topsham Senator or Representative with rotating 2-year terms.

3. Local Representation: It requires that at least four of the Governor-appointed members must be Brunswick residents, town officials, or business owners, ensuring fair representation for those most impacted by MRRA's decisions. MRRA has previously influenced board applications, dismissing community members with significant stakes in Brunswick's future.

4. Environmental Covenant: The bill subjects all MRRA property to the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act by January 1, 2027. This is necessary due to high PFAS levels in wells at Brunswick Landing and MRRA's lack of action to test private wells nearby. The Golf course well tested at over 33ppt for PFAS in February /March 2025. The Golf course is now open for the 2025 season and despite MRRA statements of filtration installation –according to BACSE- no water filtration has been installed as of 5.2.2025. MRRA has neglected this critical toxic issue exposing citizens to PFAS poisoning.

5. Site Location of Development Laws: The bill removes the exemption for former military bases from development laws, ensuring robust environmental standards. At an MRRA Airport Master Plan meeting, irresponsible plans to release contaminated parcels were revealed. MRRA's mishandling of contaminated dirt on Brunswick property exposes residents to toxic contaminants without proper safeguards.

In conclusion, Maine Bill LD1637 is essential for environmental responsibility, accountability, and community representation. The painful experiences endured by my family and community underscore the necessity of these changes. I urge you to support this bill to protect our environment and community from future harm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Self, Coombs Road, Brunswick, ME
May 2, 2025