

Sandra Carslick-Coombs Road, Brunswick ME.

LD 2115 An Act to Protect Private Wells from Hazardous Substances

I have lived on the Coombs Road for 38 years. I loved how the Naval Air Station brought diversity to our beautiful town. I enjoyed the sound of the P3's taking off and landing; it made me feel safe. I don't feel as safe anymore.

In 2024, Brunswick Landing experienced the largest toxic chemical spill in Maine's history and the sixth largest in the U.S., when a faulty fire suppression system released AFFF foam mixed with water into our community. We know this disaster has contaminated local waterways, soil, and air, posing a serious, long-term threat to public health. The AFFF exposure risks include reproductive and developmental issues, immune system damage, liver and kidney damage along with at least six different cancers.

Some homesites on the Coombs and Purinton Roads did receive quarterly testing post-spill by the Maine DEP. This began for us in September 2024 and ended July 2025. The majority saw steady PFAS increases with each testing on the analytical reports we received. Several neighbors' testing results spiked following the first round of testing and had totals 4-5 times the Federal Drinking Water Guidelines of 4 ppt (parts per trillion). Those neighbors have been purchasing their own water for drinking and cooking for over a year now. One neighbor paid \$34,000 to connect to town water due to PFAS contamination of their well. Other owners have received estimates to connect to town water, which are unaffordable for most.

We were told the Navy would continue the testing. That has not happened. In fact, the Navy said they checked in with the homeowners and only two were interested. That is not true. I connected with 10 neighbors that had previously been tested. All stated the Navy did not reach out to them.

What we need now:

- Comprehensive, free PFAS testing for all private wells and community water sources in and near the affected areas.
- Immediate installation of filtration systems for contaminated wells.
- Where filtration is not feasible, connection to municipal water supplies.

I realize that the responsible parties for this disastrous toxic spill need to be held accountable. In the interim, moving this bill forward is imperative for us to be assured all impacted will have safe drinking water and help our communities recover and thrive.

Thank you, Committee Members and Sponsors of this important bill. We appreciate your consideration in moving LD 2115 forward.