

January 30, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Tran and members of the Committee,

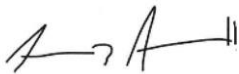
The City of Gresham is in strong support of HCR 2, which declares a commitment to the health and safety of firefighters and to finding an urgent solution to the problem of firefighting personal protective gear that contains cancer-causing chemicals.

Our firefighters consistently put their lives on the line to protect our community and save lives. Unfortunately, the gear they use in the line of duty often contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are a known carcinogen. We must push industry to deploy personal protective gear that is free of PFAS and all known carcinogens, and the legislature should ban the future use of PFAS in personal protective gear. Our firefighters deserve nothing less.

Moving away from PFAS-containing gear will not be easy, as fire departments throughout the state have invested heavily in what was state of the art equipment, which is why it will be crucial for the state to help local fire departments transition to PFAS-free equipment as soon as possible.

As we learn more about the dangers and long-term impacts of any job-related health issues, it will be paramount to continue to push forward with work-related protections. This resolution is in line with that goal – to protect workers – and our Council stands in full support.

Sincerely,



Mayor Travis Stovall



Council President Jerry Hinton



Councilor Kayla Brown



Councilor Cathy Keathley



Councilor Sue Piazza



Councilor Eddy Morales



Councilor Janine Gladfelder