

Submitter: Meredith Cocks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2947

I am writing on behalf of myself, but have a relevant public health education and professional expertise, and currently work in pesticide safety research. I am very concerned with the recent emerging research on the persistence of PFAS in our environment, and its the effects on human health. PFAS are called "forever chemicals" for a reason: they don't break down. The ubiquity of these chemicals in so many products in our daily lives means an enormous amount are shed constantly into our and wastewater. The persistence of these chemicals means any mistakes and missteps we make today will be with us for generations. Investing now in research into the distribution of these chemicals in our agricultural fields is an investment in human health, environmental health, and will help inform smart health, environmental, and agricultural policy moving forward. I hope Oregon can avoid the path of states like Maine where PFAS biosolids left entire swaths of agricultural land contaminated, ruining the livelihoods of growers and endangering the environment. I urge all regulators to take seriously all synthetic substances that have such an enduring footprint in our environment.

Thank you.