Public Works Service Area
City of Portland
Priya Dhanapal, Deputy City Administrator

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers

February 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Smith and members of the committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland, I am writing today to express our strong support for Senate Bill 91, prohibiting the sale and use of firefighting foam containing polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and requiring the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to establish a program to ensure the safe collection and disposal of firefighting foam containing PFAS.

As the public utility provider of clean drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater management services, we are committed to improving water quality in Portland and managing our natural resources responsibly. There is growing scientific evidence that exposure to PFAS substances, which are found in some firefighting foams as well as many other everyday products, may lead to a range of human health problems. Use of these foams may result in the release of PFAS into our wastewater streams, groundwater, and waterways. PFAS does not degrade in the environment, and wastewater treatment plants are not designed to treat complex chemicals like PFAS. This presents a significant challenge for public utilities, whose services are impacted by PFAS pollution from industries, businesses, and households.

The best way to address the problems posed by PFAS is to remove the sources through product substitution and phasing out use of products containing PFAS, which SB 91 does for firefighting foam. In addition, improper disposal of PFAS-containing materials can impact both drinking water and wastewater, as we've seen across the country. SB 91 requires the EQC to establish a collection and disposal program for PFAS-containing fire foam, which will help keep these products out of our water systems.

The City of Portland is very supportive of this initiative to control and manage PFAS and urges you to support Senate Bill 91.

Thank you,

Priya Dhanapal
Deputy City Administrator
Portland Public Works Service Area

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