



February 19, 2025

Senator Sollman, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Oregon Legislature

Re: Environment Oregon and OSPIRG support Senate Bill 91

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a policy and action group with one mission: to restore and protect the natural world. Our staff works for clean air, clean water, clean energy, wildlife, open spaces and a livable climate. OSPIRG is a statewide, public interest group. We are writing in support of Senate Bill 91 to phase out PFAS in firefighting foam.

Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a threat to our environment and public health. PFAS have been given the nickname "forever chemicals" because they don't break down in our bodies or in the environment. So the more they get used, the more they build up and the bigger risk they pose. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to PFAS chemicals, [even in small amounts over time](#), has been linked to serious health effects including cancer, thyroid disruption and reduced vaccine response.

The use of firefighting foams containing PFAS no longer makes sense. PFAS foam puts our waterways at risk and also endangers our firefighters, who are at increased cancer risk due to exposure to PFAS. In fact, cancer is the leading cause of death among firefighters in the United States, according to the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

There are safer alternatives to PFAS foam on the market, and fifteen states (AK, CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, ME, MD, MN, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT, and WA), the U.S. Military and the European Union are already moving away from using PFAS fire fighting foam completely.

Please make Oregon the 16th state to phase out PFAS from firefighting foam by passing Senate Bill 91.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
Environment Oregon
State Director

Charlie Fisher
OSPIRG
State Director