

Submitter: Lauren Schwartz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3512

Hello,

My name is Lauren Schwartz. I moved out here from South Florida in 2023 because the state was being run into the ground with toxic water, zero regulation, and corporate corruption so prevalent we had term limits to hasten the pipeline from legislator to lobbyist. I am writing as a new, and concerned citizen of Springfield, OR.

I have a friend who works for Clean Water Action Minnesota, and she was one of the people responsible for the passage of Amara's Law, banning PFAs in the state. It was through her work that I learned the horrors of PFAs - and it makes so much sense why we have higher cancer rates than ever before, despite our society's inclination towards health optimization. It's because we have tiny microplastics and their petrochemicals building up inside of our bodies through the course of our lifetimes. These PFAs have become ubiquitous in our businesses and homes, effecting everything from our drinking water, to our pots and pans, to the containers our food comes in, to the microplastics that cover our clothing and furniture. These chemicals and plastics do not leave our system - they stick aroundf and build upon themselves until our bodies develop tumors as a response. It was because of these revalations that I threw out all of my nonstick cookwear and anything platic, especially darker colored plastic cookware, and plastic storage bins. Shockingly, everything was fine! I use regular canola oil to make sure food doesn't stick and regular stainless steel like the olden days of 1990. I even ditched my plastic food storage containers for similarly inepexnsive glass storage tubs that have the added benefit of being microwave safe.

I strongly support HB 3512 to phase out toxic PFAS chemicals in Oregon. PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," build up in our bodies, persist in the environment, and are linked to cancer, immune disorders, and water contamination. Oregon must act now to protect public health and prevent further pollution.

HB 3512 will phase out added PFAS in firefighting foam, artificial turf, cookware, cosmetics, textiles, and many other products. Other states have already taken action, and Oregon should not become a dumping ground for toxic goods that can no longer be sold elsewhere. This bill builds on proven solutions to improve public health in a responsible, cost-effective way. It contaminates soil and water, putting crops, pollinators, livestock, and fisheries at risk. Removing PFAS at the source will ensure cleaner drinking water, sparing ratepayers from expensive water treatment costs.

Oregon has an opportunity to lead in protecting communities from dangerous chemicals. I urge you to pass HB 3512 to protect our health, environment, and economy from the long-lasting damage of PFAS contamination.

Our state is doing wonderful things in leading the charge against the corruption we're seeing in DC. We have the opportunity to keep our section of the country healthy and protected - for us, and for future generations.

Please pass HB 3512 and help us phase out toxic forever chemicals.