

Submitter: Judith Lienhard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3512

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Judith Lienhard, and I live in Portland. I am writing in support of HB 3512 to get toxic chemicals out of consumer products and out of the firefighting foam that's harming firefighters.

I support HB 3512 because:

PFAS are toxic "forever chemicals" that can take thousands of years to break down and build up over time – in our soil, water, and bodies. Alarming, PFAS are in the blood of 97% of Americans. These dangerous chemicals stay in our environment for generations and harm our health—causing cancers, lower birth weight, liver damage, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, fertility issues, and issues with development in children. Oregon must act now to start phasing out PFAS.

A majority of states have banned firefighting foam containing PFAS, and instead use a PFAS-free alternative. Oregon needs to do the same. Firefighters have 9% higher rates of cancer than the average American. Fire suppressing foam shouldn't poison our firefighters.

It's time for Oregon to switch to products that are PFAS free. When we stop PFAS at the source, we prevent these chemicals from getting into our soil and water where they can impact the crops, pollinators, livestock and fish on which we depend. By stopping PFAS at the source, we can also prevent ratepayers from being stuck with the bill for ongoing water treatment costs.

Thank you in advance for your support of HB 3512.

Sincerely,
Judith Lienhard
Portland, Oregon