

March 11, 2025

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Oregon should consider banning perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) because of their significant environmental and health risks. Here are some key reasons:

1. **Health Concerns** – PFAS, often called “forever chemicals,” have been linked to serious health issues, including cancer, liver damage, immune system suppression, and developmental problems in infants and children. These chemicals accumulate in the body and do not break down easily.
2. **Water Contamination** – PFAS are highly persistent in the environment and have been found in drinking water supplies nationwide. In Oregon, contamination could threaten local rivers, lakes, and groundwater, affecting both human and wildlife populations.
3. **Environmental Persistence** – PFAS do not naturally degrade, meaning they can remain in soil and water for decades. This long-term contamination is costly and difficult to clean up.
4. **Regulatory Trends** – Other states, such as California and Washington, have already taken steps to ban or regulate PFAS in consumer products like food packaging, cosmetics, and firefighting foam. Oregon could follow suit to protect public health.
5. **Safer Alternatives Exist** – Many industries have begun phasing out PFAS in favor of safer alternatives, making a ban more feasible without disrupting key sectors.

By banning or heavily regulating PFAS, Oregon could prevent long-term environmental damage and protect residents from unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals.

Sincerely,

Steve Fisher



Steve Fisher

Oregon State Director

Firefighter Cancer Support Network

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