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Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 3512

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Antonia Langowski, and I am a third-year law student at Lewis & Clark Law School, where I am pursuing my Juris Doctor degree and a Certificate in Environmental & Natural Resources Law. I am deeply passionate about public health and environmental justice, and I write today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 3512. This bill is essential to protecting Oregon's communities from the harmful effects of PFAS contamination.

General Health Impacts Associated With PFAS Exposure

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS"), infamously dubbed "forever chemicals," are a class of highly persistent and toxic chemicals widely used in consumer products, from cookware to cosmetics, carpets, and even dental floss.[1] Strong scientific research has linked PFAS exposure to severe health risks, including:[2]

- Endocrine disruption;
- Obesity;
- Diabetes;
- Reproductive disorders;
- Cancers;
- Asthma;
- Immune system suppression;

[1] *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*, U.S. Food & Drug Admin. https://www.fda.gov/food/environmental-contaminants-food/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas (last updated Jan. 3, 2025); Courtney Lindwall, *"Forever Chemicals" Called PFAS Show Up in Your Food, Clothes, and Home*, NRDC (Apr. 10, 2024), https://www.nrdc.org/stories/forever-chemicals-called-pfas-show-your-food-clothes-and-home; Alessio Filippo Peritore et al., *Current Review of Increasing Animal Health Threat of Perand Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): Harms, Limitations, and Alternatives to Manage Their Toxicity*, 24 Int'l J. of Molecular Sci.'s 1, 1 (2023).

[2] Alessio Filippo Peritore et al., *supra* note 1, at 6–15; Katarzyna Mokra, *Endocrine Disruptor Potential of Short- and Long-Chain Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)—A Synthesis of Current Knowledge with Proposal of Molecular Mechanism*, 22 Int'l J. of Molecular Sci.'s 1, 3–5 (2021).

- Developmental harm in children; and
- Hormonal disruption.

Despite these known risks, regulatory gaps allow for the continued use of PFAS substances in everyday items,[3] leading to contamination of drinking water, soil, and air. Again, these chemicals do not break down in the environment, causing long-term pollution that disproportionately affects children and vulnerable communities.[4]

Key Provisions of HB 3512

HB 3512 takes crucial steps toward reducing PFAS exposure by prohibiting the distribution and sale of specific covered products that contain intentionally added PFAS. The bill applies to a broad range of consumer goods, including air care products, cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, textiles, and toys. Moreover, HB 3512 requires manufacturers to provide a certificate of compliance to demonstrate that their products do not contain intentionally added PFAS. This provision ensures that Oregon consumers are not unknowingly purchasing products that contain these harmful chemicals.

Benefits of HB 3512

The passage of HB 3512 will yield several key benefits for the state of Oregon:

1. **Protection of Public Health**: By reducing exposure to PFAS, HB 3512 will contribute to better health outcomes for Oregonians, especially vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, and communities living near PFAS-contaminated areas. The long-term health benefits of preventing further exposure to these harmful chemicals cannot be overstated.
2. **Environmental Protection**: PFAS contamination is widespread, and these chemicals persist in the environment for decades. By reducing the sale of products that contain PFAS, this bill will help prevent further contamination of Oregon's waterways, soil, and wildlife. Oregon's natural resources, including its rivers, lakes, and forests, will benefit from this measure, supporting biodiversity and ecological health.
3. **Market Innovation**: The prohibition on PFAS-containing products will create an economic incentive for manufacturers to innovate and develop safer alternatives.[5] By encouraging the production of PFAS-free products, Oregon will help drive the broader

[3] Courtney Lindwall, *supra* note 1.
[4] Alessio Filippo Peritore et al., *supra* note 1, at 2–3, 6–7, & 11–13; Maya Brownstein, *Communities of color disproportionately exposed to PFAS pollution in drinking water*, HARVARD T.H. SCH. OF PUB. HEALTH (May 15, 2023), https://hsph.harvard.edu/news/communities-of-color-disproportionately-exposed-to-pfas-pollution-in-drinking-water/.
[5] *See, e.g.*, *PFAS-Free Products*, PFAS CENTRAL, https://pfascentral.org/pfas-free-products/ (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

market toward greener, more sustainable options, which could have far-reaching benefits beyond the state.

4. **Alignment with National and Global Trends**: As more states[6] and countries[7] take action to regulate PFAS, Oregon will be well-positioned to lead in the fight against these toxic chemicals. By passing HB 3512, Oregon will demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship and public health, ensuring that it remains at the forefront of the growing movement to limit PFAS in consumer goods.

Conclusion

Oregonians should not have to worry about toxic chemicals in the products they use daily. SB 3512 is a necessary step toward protecting public health, the environment, and future generations from the devastating effects of PFAS. I strongly urge you to support and advance this bill to ensure a cleaner, healthier Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Antonia Langowski

[6] *See Policies for Addressing PFAS*, SAFER STATES, https://www.saferstates.org/priorities/pfas/ (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

[7] *ECHA and five European countries issue progress update on PFAS restriction*, EUR. CHEM. AGENCY https://echa.europa.eu/-/echa-and-five-european-countries-issue-progress-update-on-pfas-restriction (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).