



March 13th, 2025

Representative Lively, Chair
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment
Oregon Legislature

Re: Environment Oregon & OSPIRG support House Bill 3512

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, 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 support House Bill 3512 to mitigate the environmental and public health impacts of PFAS.

PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) are a class of thousands of chemicals commonly used to make every-day consumer products grease- or water-proof. They have been nicknamed 'forever chemicals' because they don't break down in the environment or in human bodies. So the more they get used, the more they build up and the bigger the risk they pose to our health. This is particularly concerning for our kids who could be exposed to these chemicals for decades to come.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to PFAS chemicals, even in small amounts over time, has been linked to serious health effects including some cancers, low birth weight, fertility issues, liver damage, thyroid disruption, reduced vaccine response and more.

To address these threats and reduce Oregonians' exposure to these dangerous chemicals, House Bill 3512 would prohibit the manufacturing, sale or distribution of many consumer products that contain intentionally added PFAS in Oregon, including firefighting foam, artificial turf, cleaning products, carpets and rugs, cookware, cosmetics, dental floss, fabric treatments, packaging, juvenile products, menstrual products, textiles, apparel and ski wax.

Oregonians should be able to trust that the products being sold on store shelves are safe, and the protections offered in HB 3512 are long overdue. Whether Oregonians are frying an egg, cleaning their homes, buying baby supplies or kicking around a soccer ball at a local park, we shouldn't need to worry about being exposed to toxic forever chemicals that threaten our family's health or the health of the environment.

We urge your support of House Bill 3512 to bring Oregon in line with actions taken by several other states to protect public health and the environment from the threat of PFAS.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
Environment Oregon
State Director

Charlie Fisher
OSPIRG
State Director