

March 13, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

RE: OR HB 3512 – Oppose

We are writing to oppose HB 3512 Per- & Poly-Fluoroalkyl Protection Act and pledge our support to help make the bill better.

The North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM) is a trade association of more than 600 companies that manufacture commercial foodservice equipment and supplies. These businesses manufacture products that support the food away from home market – which includes more than one million locations in the U.S., and more than 11,000 foodservice locations in Oregon alone. In fact, according to the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA), the hospitality industry in Oregon provided more than 200,000 jobs in 2024 and brought in more than \$14 billion in annual sales.

NAFEM supports the responsible production, use, and management of fluorinated substances. This includes regulatory requirements that protect human health, and the environment, yet consider the diverse products that use these substances and the technical and economic feasibility of alternatives.

HB 3512 proposes to prohibit the distribution or sale of certain covered products that contain intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The bill requires a manufacturer of covered products to provide a certificate of compliance to persons that sell or distribute covered products in this state. This means even non-PFAS items must demonstrate compliance, or those products may not be sold in the state.

PFAS are a diverse group of chemistries that provide strength, durability, stability, and resilience. These properties are critical to the reliable and safe function of a broad range of products that are important for industry and consumers. They impart a wide range of performance characteristics that are vital for the manufacture and performance of thousands of different products and industrial equipment.

HB 3512 incorrectly characterizes all PFAS substances as equal, regardless of unique properties and uses, environmental and health profiles, potential exposure pathways, and potential risk. PFAS substances can be a solid (e.g., fluoropolymers), liquid (e.g., fluorotelomer alcohols) or a gas (e.g., hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants). The fundamental physical, chemical, and biological properties of solids, liquids and gases are different. The distinct properties of the three types illustrates their variations and the fact that a “one-size fits all” approach will not work.

Given the bill broadly defines PFAS and doesn't provide a reasonable threshold for triggering compliance, **thousands if not hundreds of thousands of products sold or used in Oregon would be subject to a reporting requirement and potentially a use restriction.** As drafted, HB 3512 will affect products ranging from cleaning products, consumer hygiene, carpets, cookware, cosmetics, and more. Considering the volume of manufacturers and products that would be subject to the reporting requirements specified by HB 3512, the compliance deadlines alone are reason to oppose this bill.

While we oppose HB 3512, we are committed to working with you and other stakeholders on a PFAS policy grounded in scientific principles that protect human health and the environment,

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leverages existing regulatory requirements and resources, encourages innovation and economic development, and provides the business community regulatory certainty.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these concerns. We look forward to constructively engaging in this ongoing discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Souhrada". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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