



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

March 12, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Chair Representative John Lively
Vice Chair Representative Mark Gamba
Vice Chair Representative Bobby Levy

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Levy, Gamba and Committee,

For the record I'm Karl Koenig, President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council. We represent the over 3800 career professional fire fighters, paramedics, prevention and wildland personnel.

We are here to testify in favor of House Bill 3512. The PFAS Phase out Bill will give a responsible time frame to stop the exposure to harmful PFAS chemicals, specifically end the use of PFAS laden Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) for the Oregon Fire Service.

The exposure to PFAS in the foam we use to extinguish petroleum-based fires, primarily in aircraft fires is tremendous. The Oregon Fire Service has trained, myself included for some 60 years. Waist deep at times for extended periods of time both training and actual operations at incidents, is unfortunately a occurrence repeated many times over. We also know that cancer is the number 1 killer of fire fighters to date. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) lists the occupational exposure of being a fire fighter as a Group 1 carcinogen. Reason enough to take a known carcinogen PFAS and phase it out of our profession.

We are working today on a phase out plan that takes unused AFFF and exchanges it with the latest non PFAS Foam product called "F3". We are the first state in the United States to have all our major airports including our two Federal Fighter Bases exchange, clean and replace their old foam with new. This exchange was not free but it also set the standard for taking care of our fire fighters and the environment. This exchange program has worked at Oregon's largest Fire District, TVFR, which paid for the open containers but the manufacturer exchanged all sealed containers saving a considerable amount of resources.

It is worthy to note that this corporate behavior should be applauded as an example of what to do to protect people and the environment.

We believe the timetables in the bill will allow for the proper disposal, exchange and use if needed as a responsible solution to the unknown quantities of AFFF in the remainder of Oregon Fire Stations today.

Please join your fire fighters in passing House Bill 3512 out of committee and on to the floor for consideration.

Thank you,

Karl Koenig

Karl Koenig
President
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council