

Submitter: Kay Firor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3512

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3512 to get toxic chemicals out of consumer products, and out of the firefighting foam that's harming firefighters and the environment. PFAS are toxic "forever chemicals" that can take thousands of years to break down, and that build up over time in our water, soil, and bodies. Alarmingly, PFAS are in the blood of 97% of Americans. These dangerous chemicals stay in our environment for generations and harm our health, and the health of the other living things with whom we share this planet.

I support HB 3512 because:

- Cancer, infertility, high cholesterol, liver damage, and pregnancy complications can be caused or exacerbated by PFAS.
- Children's health can be compromised: low birth weight, development issues, and behaviour problems are seen after exposure, or parental exposure, to PFAS.
- Firefighters are especially vulnerable, since their exposure to PFAS in fire-retardant foam leads to a high cancer risk. A majority of states have banned PFAS in firefighting foam, and instead use a PFAS-free alternative. Fire suppressing foam should not be poisoning our firefighters.
- Forever chemicals are getting into our soil and water where they impact the crops, pollinators, livestock, and fish on which we depend. Drinking water can only be considered safe if it is free of such chemicals.

It's time for Oregon to switch to products that are PFAS-free. When we stop PFAS at the source, we prevent these chemicals from getting into our soil and water. By stopping PFAS at the source, we can also prevent ratepayers from being stuck with the bill for ongoing water treatment costs.

Thank you in advance for your support of HB 3512.

Sincerely,
Kay Firor,
Cove, OR