



Mar 14, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: Support for HB 3512 Phase out PFAS in Oregon

Dear Chair Lively, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Eisele, Communities and Ecosystems Project Manager at Beyond Toxics, a statewide environmental advocacy organization representing over 6,000 Oregonians. Beyond Toxics is a longstanding advocate supporting toxic reduction policy to protect public health and I am writing to express in strong support of HB 3512.

PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," are toxins that accumulate in our bodies, persist in the environment, and are linked to cancer, immune disorders, and water and soil contamination. HB 3512 will phase out added PFAS in firefighting foam, artificial turf, cookware, cosmetics, textiles, and many other products. PFAS contaminates soil and water, crops, pollinators, livestock, and puts fisheries at risk. Removing PFAS at the source will help to ensure clean drinking water, sparing ratepayers from expensive water treatment costs.

Children are at greater risk of exposure to PFAS because they are still developing and they may be more sensitive to the harmful effects of chemicals such as PFAS. Childrens' behaviors such as crawling on floors and putting things in their mouths can lead to a higher risk of exposure to PFAS in carpets or artificial turf, household dust, toys, and cleaning products.

Consumers in Oregon should be able to purchase everyday household products, clothing, and personal care products without having to worry about exposure to chemicals that can enter their bloodstreams, bioaccumulate in their bodies and be harmful to their families health.

Disposal of products containing PFAS to municipal landfills leads to PFAS contaminants in leachate that eventually seeps through soils, groundwater and into waterways. Studies in other states have found dangerous levels

PFAS bioaccumulation in fish tissue and States have been forced to issue fish consumption advisories for certain waterways. Not only would this be ***crippling to Oregon's fisheries economy***, this would have devastating effects to vulnerable populations ***including Tribal communities*** who depend on fish consumption as a dietary staple and is an critical to community health and traditional cultural practices.

As other states phase out harmful PFAS-laden products, Oregon shouldn't become a dumping ground for companies who can't sell these products elsewhere. This bill builds on proven solutions to improve public health in a responsible, cost-effective way. Oregon has an opportunity to lead in protecting communities from dangerous chemicals. I urge you to pass HB 3512 to protect our health, environment, and economy from the long-lasting damage of PFAS contamination.

Please vote yes on HB 3512. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Eisele
Beyond Toxics