



March 14, 2022

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for House Bill 3512, Relating to PFAS**

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of Sierra Club Oregon, we write in support of House Bill 3512, which will direct Oregon to join several states in an effort to phase out dangerous chemicals out of our everyday consumer products.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination is a crisis affecting Oregon's water, soil, wildlife, and people. These chemicals have been detected in drinking water across the state, in fish and wildlife, and even in the blood of 97% of Americans. We must act now to stop exposure at the source rather than continuing to bear the burden of costly clean-ups. This bill aligns Oregon with national best practices by phasing out the use of PFAS in consumer products like cookware, textiles, firefighting foam, and packaging just as other states have already done. It is a common-sense, cost effective measure to prevent further contamination while supporting safer alternatives.

PFAS is harmful regardless of whether it is deliberately introduced or results from manufacturing processes. Exposure at even minuscule levels is dangerous and the definition in HB 3512 follows those used in other states with similar laws to address this. Manufacturers are already expected to know what chemicals are in their products. HB 3512 allows them to present evidence that PFAS was not intentionally added if a product tests positive. This is a reasonable safeguard, not an undue burden. In reality, Oregon is following the lead of many states that have successfully phased out PFAS in key products and this bill is designed to bring us in line with these efforts. Industry has long claimed certain PFAS are safe yet history has shown otherwise. Even fluoropolymers like Teflon, once considered inconsequential, have been linked to serious health issues. We must act now to prevent further contamination and protect public health.

HB 3512 has been amended to allow for the continued use of post-consumer recycled materials with reasonable compliance timelines. The bill is designed to support recycling while keeping harmful chemicals out of the waste stream. We don't need PFAS to live safe, healthy lives and major companies are already eliminating PFAS from their products. HB 3512 will ensure Oregon is not left behind. I urge the committee to pass this bill to protect our water, our health, and future generations from the dangers of PFAS contamination.

Respectfully submitted,  
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