

Written Testimony in Support of HB3512

March 15, 2025

Chair Lively and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment,

I urge you to support HB 3512 to end the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Oregon. As is well known PFAS do not break down in the environment or the human body, leading to widespread contamination in our water, soil, and even the bloodstream of our children.

The scientific evidence is overwhelming. Studies have linked PFAS exposure to serious health risks, particularly for children, who are more vulnerable to toxic chemicals due to their developing bodies. It concerns me that PFAS contamination is found in our drinking water and this has a significantly dangerous impact on children and pregnant women. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency the known health effects among others are:

- “Reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women.
- Developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes.
- Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.
- Reduced ability of the body’s immune system to fight infections, including reduced vaccine response.
- Interference with the body’s natural hormones.
- Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.” <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas> [accessed March 15, 2025]

We should not allow chemical manufacturers and industry interests to dictate the safety of our children. Your support of HB3512 will help eliminate unnecessary exposure to PFAS by phasing out their use in products sold in our state. I respectfully ask for your support of HB3512.

Sincerely,
Mary Pettenger, PhD