

HB 171

Testimony Packet

House Resources Committee



April 22, 2022

Representative Josiah Patkotak
Chair
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 171, PFAS Use & Remediation, Fire/Water Safety

Senators:

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 171 relating to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Although there are some provisions in the bill that we do support, ACC is concerned about the provisions in Section 1 of the proposal that would –

- amend AS 46.03.340 to establish drinking water limits for several PFAS without appropriate opportunity for stakeholder involvement, and
- amend AS 46.03.345 to require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to identify the responsible party or parties when those limits are exceeded.

In addition, the proposed amendments to Section 46.03.350 would unnecessarily restrict the use of firefighting foams for high hazard (Class B) fires outside of the oil and gas industry and require the state to get ahead of federal efforts to identify effective fluorine-free foams that are currently underway.

As the Committee is likely aware, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) established Health Advisories of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for two of the substances listed in HB 171 – perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) – in 2016. EPA recently announced that it would establish national drinking water standards for these two substances by late 2023. In the meantime, the 2016 Health Advisories provide useful guidance in assessing drinking water exposures to state residents. In a survey of public drinking water systems in the state conducted between 2013 and 2015, EPA reported no detections of PFOA, PFOS, or four other PFAS – all of which are listed in HB 171. While EPA has since refined its analytical techniques to detect lower levels of these substances, the limits of the 2015 analysis were below the Health Advisory levels of 70 ppt for PFOA and PFOS.



In seeking to assign responsibility for releases of PFAS near a water supply, HB 171 would result in significant unintended consequences. Although the proposed amendment to AS 46.03.345 would exempt releases of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) to extinguish fires, it does not exempt the previous use of AFFF for testing or training by local fire departments. Nor does the proposal exempt publicly owned landfills that may have released PFAS or wastewater treatment plants that have provided biosolids containing PFAS for agriculture. Farmers who have applied those biosolids on their land also are potentially liable under the bill. These activities have been identified as contributing to PFAS levels in groundwater elsewhere in the country.

While we strongly support efforts to ensure Alaskan residents have access to clean drinking water, we believe that such efforts should have their foundation in strong, science-based regulatory processes that provide for public input. We also suggest that assigning responsibility for sources of PFAS can be very complicated – particularly if the definition for “clean” is set at such low levels.

While the proposal would permit the use of AFFF containing PFAS in the oil and gas sector, it would unnecessarily restrict emergency use of these foams in other applications. As you may be aware, considerable efforts are being made by multiple federal agencies to explore effective fluorine-free alternatives. Thus far, these efforts have identified several significant challenges – both in the effectiveness of the alternatives and the incompatibility of the equipment required for their deployment. In this regard, the proposal runs counter to, and fails to account for, the learnings of these federal efforts.

Given these concerns, ACC cannot support the current version of HB 171 but looks forward to working with the Committee and the bill sponsors to develop legislation that can make meaningful progress in addressing the PFAS issue. We have supported legislation in other states to restrict the use of AFFF for testing and training which has historically represented most of the environmental release of PFAS from foam use. Such training and equipment testing can be managed appropriately without the use of fluorinated foam while still enabling its use where needed to address crucial, high-hazard fires

ACC also supports the management of unutilized PFAS-containing AFFF as proposed in the amendments to AS 46.03.350. This collected material can be safely and effectively destroyed through thermal treatment under appropriate conditions, as acknowledged in the proposed amendment to AS 46.03.355. EPA released interim guidance on the destruction of PFAS materials in 2020 that provides information on the safe operation of thermal treatment facilities and has indicated that it will provide an update next year. In a recent analysis at a permitted cement kiln in Cohoes, New York that had treated PFAS-containing foam, moreover, the state Department of Environmental Conservation found no evidence of PFAS contamination of soil or surface water resulting from the destruction of AFFF at the facility.



Representative Josiah Patkotak

April 22, 2022

Page 3

Please feel free to contact me at srisotto@americanchemistry.com or at (202) 249-6727 if you have questions on the information provided above or would like to explore amendments to the current proposal.

Sincerely,

Steve Risotto

Stephen P. Risotto
Senior Director

cc: Rep. Grier Hopkins, Vice Chair
Rep. Zack Fields
Rep. Calvin Schrage
Rep. Sara Hannan
Rep. George Rauscher
Rep. Mike Cronk
Rep. Ronald Gillham
Rep. Tom McKay





March 30, 2022

To: Alaska House Resources Committee

Re: HB171, "An Act relating to pollutants; relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; relating to the duties of the Department of Environmental Conservation; relating to firefighting substances; relating to thermal remediation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination; and providing for an effective date."

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AKPIRG) is writing in support of House Bill 171 (HB171). Founded in 1974, AKPIRG is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, statewide organization advocating on behalf of consumers and the public interest.

AKPIRG has been a strong supporter of toxic-free communities, putting out an annual [Trouble in Toyland](#) report, aiding with PFAS research through reports like [Mind the Store](#), and working at the local level to ban flame-retardant chemicals from creating severe harm to children, firefighters, and other community members. We believe that all Alaskans deserve to live in a safe, healthy community.

Currently, PFAS are used to make consumer products stain, grease, and water resistant, including items like food packaging, carpet, upholstery, outdoor apparel, and in cookware, for stick resistance. In addition to consumer products, PFAS are used in industrial applications and firefighting foams for Class B petroleum and chemical fires.

In Alaska, the dispersive use of AFFF (aqueous film forming foam) containing PFAS on military bases and airports has contaminated the drinking water of many Alaskans. At least 10 communities throughout Alaska have levels of PFAS in their drinking water that are deemed unsafe by the EPA.

PFAS share the common trait of having multiple carbon-fluorine bonds, one of the strongest chemical bonds known, making them incredibly persistent. In fact, PFAS chemicals can persist in the environment for such a long time that scientists call them "virtually indestructible" and they are also known as "forever chemicals."

PFAS are highly toxic at exceedingly low levels of exposure. Exposure to PFAS has been associated with adverse health outcomes, including: cancers (such as kidney and testicular cancers); liver damage; increased risk of thyroid disease; harm to the immune system and decreased antibody response to vaccines; increased risk of asthma; decreased fertility; decreased birth weight; pregnancy-induced hypertension/ pre-eclampsia; and increased cholesterol.

This bill will provide health-protective water standards for the entire class of PFAS chemicals. Currently, the Alaska Department of Conservation uses the Environmental Protection Agency's lifetime health advisory level of 70 ppt for the sum of only two PFAS compounds (PFOA and PFOS). However, many peer-reviewed studies have found these chemicals to be dangerous at much lower levels. In addition, growing evidence shows the dangers of additional PFAS compounds, including PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS, PFHpA, and Gen-X. HB171 rightly adds these substances to the list of controlled PFAS chemicals and offers a safer advisory level of PFOA and PFOS. Alaska could truly be a leader in consumer and environmental protection by establishing stronger water quality standards such as the science-based standards adopted by Massachusetts.

In addition to regulating these dangerous chemicals, HB171 ensures that contaminated communities and first responders are provided with blood serum testing. We recommend that the bill be strengthened with provisions for the testing of local foods, including fish and wildlife that are important as traditional subsistence food sources as well as garden produce. People in affected communities should also be provided with medical monitoring for early detection of PFAS related diseases as well as health care.

There are safe alternatives that are effective and prevent harm to the health of firefighters and communities.

Consumers deserve access to safe products, and non-toxic drinking water. There are numerous definitive studies examining the effects of PFAS – now, it is the responsibility of policy makers to act on that information. HB171 will provide clear and necessary water standards for the entire class of PFAS chemicals and eliminate consumer products that are continuing to poison our communities. This bill is clearly a benefit to consumers, and it has our full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'V' followed by a stylized, cursive-like flourish that ends in a horizontal line.

Veri di Suvero
Executive Director

Bridget Shaughnessy Smith
Government Accountability Fellow

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257



Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarks Point

Curyung

Egegik

Ekuk

Ekwok

Igiugig

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

April 5, 2022

Senator Jesse Kiehl
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 419
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Sara Hannan
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Kiehl and Representative Hannan:

I write in support of Senate Bill 121 and House Bill 171, which would protect Alaskans from the dangerous health effects of PFAS chemicals. The Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) is the regional Alaska Native non-profit organization serving the Bristol Bay Region.

Substantial scientific research demonstrates that PFAS are linked to serious diseases and adverse health effects. Such studies indicate that exposure to PFAS is associated with kidney and testicular cancer, decreased birth weight, thyroid disease, decreased sperm quality, high cholesterol, pregnancy-induced hypertension and many more detrimental and dangerous health effects.

Sampling carried out by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) found that several communities in the Bristol Bay region have experienced PFAS exposure from contaminated drinking water. These communities are Dillingham, Iliamna and King Salmon. The use of aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) during firefighting equipment testing in all three communities is the presumed source of contamination. PFAS were found in 17 wells in King Salmon, 6 wells in Iliamna, and 35 wells in Dillingham. The PFAS contamination in these communities has raised concerns about health impacts and has required some households to find alternative sources of clean drinking water.

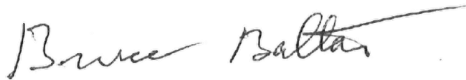
PFAS are contaminating the drinking water of communities across Alaska, and are a significant environmental and public health concern. The State must ensure that communities with contaminated water are provided with safe alternatives. We support provisions these bills establishing enforceable drinking water standards and providing for voluntary blood testing for residents who have been exposed to PFAS.

Given the importance of traditional foods and food security in our region, we would also recommend that the legislation provide provisions for contaminated communities to have access to testing of local foods, blood testing; and health monitoring for early signs of PFAS-related diseases.

We thank you for your leadership in advancing this legislation and urge the Legislature to pass SB 121 and HB 171. BBNA's point of contact on this issue is Jared Miller, jared.miller@bbna.com or 907-842-5257.

Sincerely,

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Baltar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Bruce Baltar

Acting President & CEO



February 9, 2022

Dear House and Senate Resources Committees:

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition (FCAC) supports the PFAS-regulating legislation contained in House Bill (HB) 171 and Senate Bill (SB) 121 and requests that your committees hold hearings on these bills as soon as possible. Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition is an Fairbanks-based coalition that is a group of concerned citizens motivated by the moral, spiritual, & scientific duty to take action & elevate voices calling for responsibility to each other, the earth, and all living beings. HB 171 and SB 121 are critical to protecting the people, lands, and waters of Alaska.

Clean and safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, and it is essential for the health of all Alaskans. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are highly toxic at extremely low levels, and they are contaminating the drinking water of thousands of Alaskans from the North Slope to Southeast. The dispersive use of PFAS-based industrial firefighting foams (aqueous film-forming foams or AFFF) on military bases and airports has caused widespread contamination throughout Alaska. PFAS have been found at over 100 individual sites in nearly 30 locations across Alaska.¹ At least ten Alaska communities, including in Fairbanks and North Pole have PFAS in their drinking water at levels deemed unsafe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and it is likely that the number of communities with contaminated water will grow as more sampling is conducted throughout the state.² PFAS are contaminating groundwater and surface waters, fish, wild game, garden produce and backyard chickens in Alaska. Several Alaska lakes are now closed to fishing because of PFAS contamination.³

PFAS chemicals are highly persistent and toxic at exceedingly low levels of exposure. PFAS have been linked with harmful health effects including immune suppression, decreased fertility, kidney and testicular cancer, increased risk of high blood pressure and pre-eclampsia, and increased risk of thyroid disease.⁴ PFAS exposure weakens the immune system and can reduce the effectiveness of certain vaccines.⁵

¹ See Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Threats to Drinking Water and Public Health in Alaska: The Scope of the PFAS Problem, Consequences of Regulatory Inaction, and Recommendations (September 2019), available at <https://www.akaction.org/wp-content/uploads/Report-Threats-to-Drinking-Water-and-Public-Health-in-Alaska-FINAL-web-version-9-24-19.pdf> (ACAT Report) at 25.

² ACAT Report at 4.

³ ACAT Report at 30, 38.

⁴ ACAT Report at 7.

⁵ ACAT Report at 14.



While the science tells us that PFAS are dangerous to human health, there are no enforceable drinking water or food safety standards either at the state or federal level. The latest peer-reviewed science indicates that drinking water standards should be 700 times lower than the guidance level of 70 ppt set by the Environmental Protection Agency.⁶

It is therefore urgent that Alaska take steps to protect Alaskans from PFAS contamination. HB 171 and SB 121 would require greater protections for communities by preventing and addressing PFAS contamination, including the setting of enforceable drinking water standards for a number of PFAS as well as requirements for polluters to pay for safe drinking water and blood tests for people affected by PFAS contamination.

These measures—and more—are urgently needed. The legislation must be strengthened by requiring more health protective drinking water standards; requiring the phase out of PFAS in fire-fighting foam for all industries, including oil and gas; and eliminating incineration of PFAS wastes.

We respectfully request that your committees treat PFAS as the urgent health crisis that they are and act quickly to schedule hearings on these essential protections for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Girard', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Jessica J. Girard

Founding Director

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

⁶ Lerner, S., Teflon Toxin Safety Level Should Be 700 Times Lower Than Current EPA Guideline. The Intercept (June 2019), available at: <https://theintercept.com/2019/06/18/pfoa-pfas-teflon-epa-limit/>.



www.pwsrcac.org

Citizens promoting the environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers.

Members:

Alaska State
Chamber of Commerce

Chugach Alaska
Corporation

City of Cordova

City of Homer

City of Kodiak

City of Seldovia

City of Seward

City of Valdez

City of Whittier

Community of Chenega

Community of Tatitlek

Cordova District
Fishermen United

Kenai Peninsula
Borough

Kodiak Island Borough

Kodiak Village Mayors
Association

Oil Spill Region
Environmental Coalition

Port Graham
Corporation

Prince William Sound
Aquaculture Corporation

Anchorage

3709 Spenard Rd, Ste 100
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O: (907) 277-7222
(800) 478-7221

Valdez

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Valdez, AK 99686
O: (907) 834-5000
(877) 478-7221

March 7, 2000

Representative Josiah Patkotak,
Chair House Resources
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol Building Room 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801

SUBJECT: Support for HB 171 PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety

Dear Representative Patkotak,

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC or Council) would like to express our support for House Bill 171 PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety. Because of the relatively narrow focus of PWSRCAC's mission, our interest in HB 171 is limited to the Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) that is stored at the Valdez Marine Terminal, and on some of the related vessels, for the purpose of suppressing fires.

The Council is an independent nonprofit corporation whose mission is to promote environmentally safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and associated tankers. Our work is guided by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and our contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. PWSRCAC's 18 member organizations are communities in the region affected by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, as well as commercial fishing, aquaculture, Alaska Native, recreation, tourism, and environmental groups.

AFFF contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are known for their persistence in the environment and harmful effects to people and animals. Any release of AFFF could result in the contamination of drinking water and state waters, including Prince William Sound. PWSRCAC is aware of PFAS-containing firefighting substances that are available and used to fight fires at oil and gas-related facilities in Alaska, including the Valdez Marine Terminal.

While we are mindful of pollution impacts that could result from a catastrophic fire, we are also concerned about environmental harm that could result from fire suppression, or the testing of suppression systems, using PFAS-containing substances. In 2021, there were two spills of AFFF at the Valdez Marine Terminal, associated with maintenance and fire-system testing activities, but thankfully neither spill reached the marine waters of Port Valdez and Alyeska was able to detect, respond, and mitigate both spills expediently. Therefore, the Council supports proposed language that would empower the Alaska State Fire Marshal to restrict the use of firefighting substances that contain PFAS in the

state if he or she determines an alternative non-PFAS substance is available. Such a determination would be based on an alternative firefighting substance being approved by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

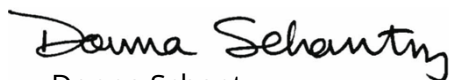
A secondary matter of concern, that could be mitigated by the passage of HB 171, stems from the past appropriation of \$9,425,000 from the Oil and Hazardous Substance Release Prevention and Response Fund (Response Fund or Fund) for the purpose of responding to releases of PFAS statewide. It is proper for the State to respond and deal with such hazardous substance releases. However, while the statutes do allow the Department of Environmental Conservation to use the Response Fund to assess the releases of PFAS that pose an imminent and substantial threat to the public health or welfare, or to the environment, it was never intended to pay all the long-term costs of remediation after the initial emergency has passed.

A danger of using the Response Fund for long-term PFAS remediation is that every dollar spent on such activity reduces the amount available for swift response to an oil spill or other hazardous substance release disaster. The overarching purpose of the Fund is to allow for a speedy and full response to an acute disaster such as an oil spill. However, using the Fund for long-term PFAS remediation could easily drain the Fund to zero and could result in the State being less able to respond immediately to an oil spill or chemical release.

The language contained in HB 171 that proposes a new section of Alaska law (46.03.350) could lead to a complete ban on the use of PFAS-containing substances in Alaska. This would reduce future budgetary pressure on the Response Fund and make the State better prepared to deploy the Fund to respond to non-PFAS spill disasters.

Please pass HB 171 this session. Should you have questions or desire more information about the Council, please feel free to contact Donna at schantz@pwsrccac.org.

Sincerely,



Donna Schantz
Executive Director



Robert Archibald
President of the Board

CC: Members of the House Resource Committee
Representative Grier Hopkins, Vice Chair House Resources
Representative Zack Fields
Representative Calvin Schrage
Representative Sara Hannan
Representative George Rauscher
Representative Mike Cronk
Representative Ronald Gillham
Representative Tom McKay

Good morning, Josiah. Please support HB 171 to protect residents from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). As you probably know, Utqiagvik water samples placed us in the top 30 communities polluted with PFAS. Please also vote against poisoning the water supply with fluoride, and support using ozone instead of chlorine to disinfect water. Please see www.fluoridealert.org. Thank-you for your consideration and support.

Additional information about PFAS:

- Clean and safe drinking water is a fundamental human right and it is essential for the health of all Alaskans.
- PFAS are contaminating the drinking water of thousands of Alaskans from the North Slope to southeast Alaska.
- PFAS are highly toxic at extremely low exposure levels.
- House Bill (HB) 171 and Senate Bill (SB) 121 would require greater protections for communities by preventing and addressing PFAS contamination, including setting of enforceable drinking water standards for a number of PFAS as well as requirements for polluters to pay for safe drinking water and blood tests for people affected by PFAS contamination. These measures are urgently needed; however, the legislation does not go far enough.
- The legislature's failure to pass HB 171 and SB 121 during the first part of the legislative session in 2021 means that many more people will be exposed to dangerous PFAS chemicals. Actions to prevent further harm and address PFAS contamination in Alaska are long overdue.
- It is critical that the legislature schedule hearings and pass these bills early in the 2022 legislative session, with necessary amendments to strengthen them.

Some background information:

- In Alaska, the dispersive use of PFAS-based industrial firefighting foams (aqueous film-forming foams or AFFF) on military bases and airports has contaminated the drinking water of communities throughout Alaska. PFAS have been found at over 100 individual sites in nearly 30 locations across Alaska. At least ten Alaska communities have PFAS in their drinking water at levels deemed unsafe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and it is likely that the number of communities with contaminated water will grow as more sampling is conducted throughout the state. PFAS are contaminating groundwater and surface waters, fish, wild game, garden produce and backyard chickens in Alaska. Several Alaska lakes are now closed to fishing because of PFAS contamination.
- PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a complex group of synthetic chemicals used in industrial applications such as firefighting foams and in household products including non-stick pots and pans, and for stain and water resistance in apparel, carpets, furniture, personal care products, and in food packaging. There are more than 9,000 PFAS chemicals, with the chemical industry manufacturing more every day.
- PFAS chemicals are highly persistent and toxic at exceedingly low levels of exposure. PFAS have been linked with harmful health effects including immune suppression, decreased fertility, kidney and testicular cancer, increased risk of high blood pressure and pre-eclampsia, and increased risk of thyroid

disease. PFAS can reduce the effectiveness of certain vaccines. Scientists have expressed concern that PFAS exposure weakens the immune system, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to suffer worse outcomes from COVID-19.

- While the science tells us that PFAS are dangerous to human health, there are no enforceable drinking water or food safety standards either at the state or federal level. The latest peer-reviewed science indicates that drinking water standards should be 700 times lower than the guidance level of 70 ppt set by the Environmental Protection Agency. This is dangerous especially as the world grapples with a global pandemic.

The proposed legislation must be strengthened through amendments. Current versions of SB 121 and HB 171 are not sufficiently health protective. Other states have far surpassed our pending bills by enacting more comprehensive measures on PFAS. We offer these recommendations to strengthen the bills and provide necessary measures to protect the health of Alaskans:

- The water quality standards in the current version of the bill are not health protective or reflective of the current science. Other states have passed enforceable drinking water standards that exceed the standards currently in the language of SB 121 and HB 171.

We recommend a science-based model as has been enacted in such states as Maine and Massachusetts. Laws in these and other states establish more protective drinking water standards or maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for a set of one or more of at least six PFAS: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). Standards should be set as low as possible given the current science concerning adverse health effects associated with PFAS at extremely low exposure levels. Legislation should establish MCLs for the PFAS class with a maximum contaminant level goal of zero for the PFAS class and a combined MCL below 20 ppt at the lowest, most health protective level technically achievable for the maximum number of quantifiable PFAS.

- Provisions to phase out PFAS in fire-fighting foam should be modeled after laws passed in WA, CO, and CA. Nine states have passed laws to prohibit the sale or use of PFAS in firefighting foam. No exemption should be allowed for the oil and gas industry, as safe and economical alternatives are available and in use.
- No incineration of PFAS wastes should be permitted. A ban on incineration of PFAS was passed in NY and is proposed in IL and other states. Incineration is a false solution, does not destroy PFAS, and results in air contamination and wider exposures to communities that are already overburdened with pollution sources. We recommend provisions that ban incineration of PFAS and require proper storage of PFAS-containing foam and other contaminated waste until a safe disposal method is brought to scale. There are promising technologies that can destroy PFAS.
- Alaska legislators should model legislation after states that have enacted more comprehensive laws on PFAS and that address PFAS as a class. For example, Maine has taken a comprehensive class approach in recently enacted legislation that bans all products containing PFAS unless the chemicals' uses have been specifically designated as currently unavoidable.

- EPA released a Strategic Roadmap for PFAS on October 18, 2021, however it is woefully inadequate. EPA continues to move far too slowly in addressing this public health crisis. State governments are stepping up to the plate in the absence of federal action and will continue to lead the way in protecting the health of their residents.
- State governments are taking legislative and regulatory actions to phase out PFAS in products to prevent contamination in favor of safer alternatives. For example, laws in ME and WA have given state agencies authority to ban PFAS in a wide range of products. CA, CT, ME, MN, NY, VT, and WA have enacted phase-outs of PFAS in food packaging. VT and ME adopted bans on PFAS in carpets, rugs, and aftermarket treatments and regulatory action is pending on these products and other home textiles (e.g., upholstery, bedding) in CA and WA. CA, CO, CT, IL, ME, NH, NY, and WA have put in place bans on the sale of firefighting foam containing PFAS.

Jeff Maupin

P.O. Box 923

Utqiagvik, AK 99723-0923

February 14, 2022

To: Members of House Resource Committee

Re: HB171 PFAS Use and Remediation; Fire/Water Safety

I would like to urge your support of this legislation. I live with ground water affected by PFAS in Gustavus. I believe that this bill will help me and other people across our state whose water systems are affected by PFAS. It is time for our state, our local government and our federal government to step up and start taking action to set guidelines for PFAS contamination and its effects on the innocent people who are living with this toxic chemical that companies knowingly used and continued to use while knowing the harm it does to people and animals. It is also time for companies to clean up this toxin that has spread to everyone on the planet. No one is safe from PFAS and everyone deserves clean water and uncontaminated soil.

Thank you,

Deborah Hemenway

17 Fara Way

PO Box 301

Gustavus, AK 99826

Dear Representative Josiah Patkotak,

I am writing today to urge you to please have a hearing on House Bill 171 - which addresses PFAS contamination and establishes health-protective measures - within the next 30 days.

PFAS are a class of over 5000 manmade chemicals that are highly toxic and persistent, which means they never break down in the environment. They are linked to a litany of serious health problems like increased risk of thyroid disease, decreased fertility, liver disease, certain cancers like testicular and kidney, and more.

In Alaska, the dispersive use of PFAS-containing firefighting foams on military bases and airports has contaminated the drinking water of communities from the North Slope to southeast Alaska. PFAS have been discovered at over 100 individual sites in nearly 30 locations, and many more need to be investigated. There are safe alternatives that provide for fire safety without causing long-term harm to our waters, wildlife, and people.

I am concerned for my health and safety, the health and safety of my family, and that of all Alaskans. Please, schedule a hearing for HB 171, and let's work together to get this important legislation passed.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Mx. Jordan Ebert

1001 Boniface Pkwy Spc 17N Anchorage, AK 99504-1649 jordanebert@live.com

Dear Representative Josiah Patkotak,

I am writing today to urge you to please have a hearing on House Bill 171 - which addresses PFAS contamination and establishes health-protective measures - within the next 30 days.

PFAS are a class of over 5000 manmade chemicals that are highly toxic and persistent, which means they never break down in the environment. They are linked to a litany of serious health problems like increased risk of thyroid disease, decreased fertility, liver disease, certain cancers like testicular and kidney, and more.

In Alaska, the dispersive use of PFAS-containing firefighting foams on military bases and airports has contaminated the drinking water of communities from the North Slope to southeast Alaska. PFAS have been discovered at over 100 individual sites in nearly 30 locations, and many more need to be investigated. There are safe alternatives that provide for fire safety without causing long-term harm to our waters, wildlife, and people.

I am concerned for my health and safety, the health and safety of my family, and that of all Alaskans. Please, schedule a hearing for HB 171, and let's work together to get this important legislation passed.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Ms. Shoshanah Stone

2425 Marian Bay Cir Anchorage, AK 99515-3112 shanahrstone@gmail.com

Please schedule the hearing for Bill 171 in this first month that the legislature meets. This bill deals with keeping the toxic substance, PFAS, out of Alaskan' drinking water and out of fire fighting chemicals. This bill will affect the health of everyone and must not be ignored. I urge you to pay attention to this bill as soon as possible.

Thank you for understanding that this is a critical issue.

Sandra Christopherson

Dear Representative Patkotak,

I'm writing to invite you to a webinar on June 30 from 9-10 AM presenting some of the latest research regarding PFAS contamination and human health. The authors of the report will share their findings of past- and current-use PFAS in the breast milk of all 50 Washington-based mothers who participated in the study, as well as recommendations for preventative action at the municipality, state, and federal level.

PFAS has been found in the water of over 30 Alaskan communities, and studies have linked PFAS exposure in humans to weakened immune systems, certain cancers, thyroid disease, and increased cholesterol. Despite this, this class of 'forever chemicals' has few regulations globally or in the USA, and those that do exist permit far greater levels of PFAS exposure than current research findings deem safe.

To help protect Alaskans future generations, we urgently need comprehensive state and federal policies to end unnecessary uses of PFAS. In the Alaska State Legislature, bills have been introduced by Sen. Jesse Kiehl and Rep. Sara Hannan, Senate Bill 121 and House Bill 171, to establish enforceable drinking water standards, phase out the use of PFAS in firefighting foam, and provide testing and safe water sources for communities affected by PFAS contamination.

You can read more about the webinar here - <https://www.akaction.org/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-breast-milk-findings-of-a-new-study-and-policies-needed-to-protect-future-generations/>

And register here - https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1e7wA681Rxq8BEb3ym0AsA

Thank you for your time and consideration, I hope you can join us, and I'd be happy to provide additional resources and answer questions.

Best Regards,

Nick

Nicholas Riordan, PhD

Organic Garden Coordinator & Science Writer

Alaska Community Action on Toxics / Yarcupia / CHE-Alaska

1225 E. International Airport Rd. Suite 220, Anchorage, AK 99518

Cell (907) 717-4392; Office (907) 222-7714 ext. 208; Fax (907) 222-7715

We believe everyone has the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food.

We acknowledge that our offices are located on the ancestral and unceded traditional territories of the Dena'ina Peoples. The Indigenous peoples of this land never surrendered lands or resources to Russia or the United States.

Dear Representative -

An issue has been brought forward regarding PFAS firefighting foam groundwater contamination affecting landowners around the Gustavus airport, particularly small farmers David and Nikki Love. If this is indeed the case, hardworking food growers are negatively affected, compromising their ability to produce local food as a livelihood. Responsible parties would have an obligation to remediate as is possible. Please consider their situation and encourage a just handling of this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Hansen

Sunnyside Farms of Haines

766-3538

Dear Alaska House Resources Committee,

I am writing today to urge you to pass House Bill 171 - which addresses PFAS contamination and establishes health-protective measures - within the next 30 days.

PFAS are a class of over 5000 manmade chemicals that are highly toxic and persistent, which means they never break down in the environment. They are linked to a litany of serious health problems like increased risk of thyroid disease, decreased fertility, liver disease, certain cancers like testicular and kidney, and more.

In Alaska, the dispersive use of PFAS-containing firefighting foams on military bases and airports has contaminated the drinking water of communities from the North Slope to southeast Alaska. PFAS have been discovered at over 100 individual sites in nearly 30 locations, and many more need to be investigated. There are safe alternatives that provide for fire safety without causing long-term harm to our waters, wildlife, and people.

I am concerned for my health and safety, the health and safety of my family, and that of all Alaskans. Please, pass HB 171, and let's work together to get this important legislation passed.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Ms. Margaret Tarrant

3240 Penland Pkwy Spc 343 Anchorage, AK 99508-1917 hidatsachick@gmail.com

Dear Chair Patkotak, Vice Chair Hopkins, and Members of the House Resources Committee,

In case you haven't seen it, Dr. John Kennish authored an important opinion editorial published in the Sunday edition of the Juneau Empire emphasizing the urgency of scheduling hearings and passing HB 171. I think he speaks for many Alaskans who consider this an urgent water quality and public health issue.

We request your leadership in scheduling a hearing as soon as possible on HB 171 and your help in ensuring its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindest regards,

Pamela Miller

Pamela Miller, she/her/hers

IPEN Co-Chair (www.ipen.org) and

Executive Director

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

1225 East International Airport Rd. Suite 220, Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Phone (907) 222-7714; Fax (907) 222-7715

Website | Twitter @ak_action | Facebook

www.akaction.org

Please donate to support environmental health and justice. Join in support of our work!

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Hello to House and Senate Resources Committees,

As we are now in the beginning of a new legislative session, I would like to ask that hearings be scheduled for HB 171 and SB 121 as soon as possible.

Please let me know if there is anything that GPAC can do to help.

Thank you.

--

Kelly McLaughlin

PO Box 234

Gustavus, Alaska 99826

907-723-5459

A community's access to clean potable water is a vital aspect of public health. It's especially important to those committed to growing food for communities. As a fellow grower and someone who's a public health professional, I want to urge you to do the best for communities like Gustavus.

As Alaskans, we all have a right to clean air, water and food.

Lisa Sadleir-Hart, MPH, RDN, CHES

To: Members of the House Resources Committee

Re: HB 171 PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety

We own and operate an organic vegetable farm north of Petersburg Alaska and are fortunate enough to be at zero risk of PFAS contamination. Unfortunately some of our friends and fellow farmers in Gustavus are not so lucky. Ground water and soil contaminated with PFAS chemicals makes producing healthy locally grown food impossible. Finding out that your soil and water is contaminated by these chemicals is a virtual death sentence to an organic farm. I can not imagine how hard it must be for our Gustavus friends to find out years of hard work, hopes and dreams are at risk because their water is contaminated with PFAS. Something needs to be done not only to stop this from happening ever again but also to remediate the terrible situation anyone exposed to PFAS finds themselves in. Please pass HB 171 asap.

Bo Varsano

Marja Smets

Farragut Farm LLC

Farragut Bay, Alaska

To: Members of the House/Senate Resources Committees

Re: SB 121 & HB 171 PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety

Hello, my name is Joe Orsi and I support the SB 121 & HB 171 legislations because I know people that are currently directly affected by the presence of PFAS in their water systems. I am a commercial produce grower in Juneau and know another commercial grower out in Gustavus that just found out their well water is contaminated with PFAS. In the 2021 growing season they are faced with not being able to sell their crop! Growing food for our communities is a challenging endeavor, so it is vital that businesses have access to clean water sources.

Please help monitor and hopefully alleviate the PFAS problem in our region so we can raise healthy families and produce in Southeast Alaska.

Thank you,

Joe Orsi,

Owner - Orsi Organic Produce

Representative Josiah Patkotak, Chairman

House Resources Committee

State Capitol, Room 102

Juneau, Ak 99801

To: Members of the House Resources Committee

Re: HB 171 Regulating PFAS Use; Fire/Water Safety

We are writing in support of House Bill 171, to regulate PFAS and help mitigate the consequences of it's use. We feel the Legislature must act due to lack of action by the federal government, lack of leadership taken by FAA, and lack of responsibility taken by PFAS producers whose products have polluted the environment of Alaska.

My wife and I own property in Gustavus with the intention to retire to that community. We have invested 12 years of our time, have dreamt for many years of owning the organic market garden which we have developed on the property, and have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars improving it. We, along with many other families have just learned that the groundwater under our property is contaminated with PFAS which has impacted our well that we use for farming and domestic use.

This contamination was caused by entirely avoidable and an irresponsible use of AFFF foam, for firefighting practice, at the Gustavus airport. This foam was mandated to be used by the FAA and the

SOA DOT despite our airport being exempt from having to use these products. Both FAA and ADOT have been aware for many years of the toxic nature of these chemicals, but persisted in requiring their use.

It is our hope that the passage of HB 171 will help other communities in the state avoid the consequences we, in Gustavus, now have to deal with: fear of potential long-term health issues, inability to drink our water, loss of revenue and fresh produce from our farm, reduction in our property values due to a toxic water table, and lack of communication as to whether these issues will be remediated.

Again, we urge your support towards passage of HB 171 as a needed step forward in protecting the health of Alaskans and the health and economic viability of our communities in the future.

David and Nikki Love

Owners, RootSeller Farm, Gustavus

6740 Marguerite St

Juneau, Ak 99801

Dear Representative

Alaska is truly the final frontier. Our beautiful home still has salmon and enough food resources to feed our people. Please do not let PFAS and other chemicals make Alaska just like the vast majority of contaminated places on our Earth. Please act to protect the health of ecosystems and the health of my three year old and all of us in this state.

Clean water is important for our continued health and wellbeing. Please protect our drinking water and health by supporting passage of SB 121 and HB 171.

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work keeping us safe and keeping our salmon and our berries safe.

As a place with most of our natural resources intact, we have a great opportunity and obligation to be leaders in creating change.

All the best,

Katherine du Plessis, MS
