



To: Alaska Senate Resources Committee

Re: SB121, "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 Senate Bill 121 (SB121). 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.

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 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.

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. SB121 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,

Veri di Suvero
AKPIRG
Executive Director

Betty Tangeman

From: janet neilson <janetneilson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 8:55 PM
To: Senate Resources
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: support for Senate Bill 121 (PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety)

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 121 (PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety). I live in Gustavus, where in 2018 we were devastated to learn that aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) had contaminated numerous private wells in our community.

As you know, 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.

Until now, I have felt despair that our state government is profoundly failing us and our environment by following the EPA's woefully inadequate guidance.

Senate Bill 121 gives me hope.

Among other things, this bill proposes to set lower limits for PFOA (8 ppt) and PFOS (16 ppt) and in so doing, demonstrates that Alaska can be a leader in our nation in protecting its residents and visitors from unsafe water.

I am also pleased to see the bill direct the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to offer voluntary blood tests to people with PFAS-contaminated drinking water, as well as to responders (such as firefighters) who are exposed to PFAS. Blood testing for PFAS is something that I have been advocating for the state to support since November 2018.

I strongly urge you to support SB 121. It is time for Alaska to step up and do more to protect its residents, visitors, and environment from these dangerous contaminants.

Sincerely,

Janet Neilson
PO Box 268
Gustavus, AK 99826

Betty Tangeman

From: Thomas McLaughlin <thomasmclaughlin49@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 10:18 AM
To: Senate Resources
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: SB 121 PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety

To: Members of the Senate Resources Committee
Re: SB 121 PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety

I would like to urge your support of this legislation. I have been a resident of Gustavus off and on since the 1970's. I personally have been exposed to PFAS as well as my children and grandchildren. These are "forever chemicals" and once introduced into the environment do not go away.

Please support this legislation.
Sincerely,

Thomas S. McLaughlin
538 6th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Betty Tangeman

From: JoAnn Lesh <joann@gustavusinn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 176 Regulating PFAS Use; Fire/Water Safety

I am a resident of Gustavus directly in the path of PFAS washed from airport AFFF foam. It has ruined my business, health and retirement that I worked for for 40 years. Please allow regulation of PFAS and stop AFFF from poisoning our precious life giving water.

This contaminant has been shielded long enough by those profiting from its use and their dishonest careless business practices. It is time to protect Alaskans from this devastation. I seek your help in passing SB 176.

Sent from my iPhone

Betty Tangeman

From: Eycewolf <eycewolf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 2:00 PM
To: House Resources; Senate Resources
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; courtney.o@akaction.org
Subject: HB 171 & SB 121

In 2010 the U.N. agreed to a resolution declaring the human right to “safe and clean drinking water and sanitation.”

Safe and clean water is very important to me. Especially as my spouse and I have been trying to conceive our first child, I am extremely alarmed that such dangerously persistent carcinogens and endocrine disruptors are allowed to pollute our drinking water.

As for fire safety, safer alternatives exist that don't cause long-term harm to our water, land, wildlife and people.

Please protect our drinking water by vigorously supporting passage of SB 121 and HB 171.

Fenra Bondarenko
827 Merlin Loop, Anchorage, AK 99518

Betty Tangeman

From: Kathy <kwhitson@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB 176 Regulating PFAS Use; Fire/Water Safety

Please vote to protect our precious resource of water. As a RN I understand the need for fire retardants, but not at the expense of clean water. There are other options available to use for fire suppression.

I took a class recently in which the 1968 photo of Earthrise was presented, it is a powerful reminder that this is our home, let's keep this blue gem healthy for our children's sake, if not our own.

I thank you, Kathleen Whitson RN

Sent from my iPhone

Betty Tangeman

From: Lin Davis <molin@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Senate Resources
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: SB 121 Regulating PFAS Use; Fire/Water Safety

Dear Senate Resource Senators:

Please schedule a hearing on SB 121. Too many Alaskans are impacted by PFAS.

Please pass SB 121, an important health proposal. Many AK communities have contaminated drinking water, and immediate action must be taken.

This is your chance to protect the health of many Alaskans. Let's end the use of PFAS. SB 121 allows voluntary blood testing for those exposed, an important steps.

Counting on you for this important health action. Thank you.

Lin Davis
3099 Nowell Ave
Juneau 99801