

SB 121-PFAS

Senate Resources Committee

Letters of Support [printed June 2, 2021]

- Nola Irwin
- Katherine du Plessis
- David and Nikki Love
- Joe Orsi
- Bo Varsano
- Marja Smets
- Lori Klein
- Lisa Sadleir

May 2, 2021

Dear Senator Micicche and Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing as a concerned constituent. I have lived in Alaska for the majority of my life, and have settled with my small family in beautiful Soldotna. As you know, the Kenai area is a wonderful place to work, recreate, and to raise a family. My partner and I have two young children, whose health and wellbeing are our number one priority. Further, my partner makes a living as a fishing guide on the waters many believe to be pristine.

I have become increasingly aware and concerned of the presence and prevalence of PFAS chemicals in our groundwater. Studies have shown that dangerous cancer-causing PFAS chemicals have been found in Alaska's groundwater from the North Slope to Southeast Alaska. These chemicals have been linked to a myriad of severe health issues like endocrine disruption, cancers like kidney and testicular, low fertility and sperm count, thyroid disease, decreased antibody responses to vaccines, and much more.

It is unacceptable that these chemicals were and continue to be wantonly unleashed into our environment. Many Alaskans, including my family, elect to source our food from our nearby rivers and forests – believing that this was the healthier option for our family. I am distressed knowing that not only is our drinking water poisoned, but our salmon and game too.

I urge you to please sign onto Senate Bill 121, which would hold polluters accountable and to pave the way for a healthier and safer Alaska. Several of your colleagues have already taken this important step to enact a law to define and enforce drinking water standards. This is not a political issue – this impacts every Alaskan. We chose Soldotna to raise our family because of the proximity to wild spaces, clean air, and clean water. Please help keep our community safe by joining your colleagues in passing Senate Bill 121.

Sincerely,

Nola Irwin

Betty Tangeman

From: Katherine du Plessis <duplekate@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 5:58 AM
To: Senate Resources
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; courtney.o@akaction.org
Subject: Letter in support of SB 121

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

Senator Joshua Revak, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, Ak 99801

To: Members of the Senate Resources Committee

Re: SB 121 Regulating PFAS Use; Fire/Water Safety

We are writing in support for Senate Bill 121, 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 over 12 years of our time, have dreamt for many years of owning the organic market gardens which we have developed on the property, and have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars improving our property. 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 using and requiring their use.

It is our hope that the passage of SB 121 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 clear communication as to whether these issues will be remediated.

Again, we urge your support towards passage of SB 121 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

CC: Senator Jesse Kiehl

Betty Tangeman

From: Joe Orsi <orsiorganicproduce@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 11:38 AM
To: House Resources; Senate Resources
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Letter of support for HB 121 & 171 PFAS Water & Improvement
Attachments: Letter of Support SBHB 121171 Orsi.pdf

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

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SIGNED LETTER OF SUPPORT - THANKS

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Orsi Organic Produce

<https://orsiorganicproduce.com/>

***Alaska Grown, Locally Produced
& Certified Naturally Grown***

From: bo <writebo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 15, 2021 9:41 PM
To: Senate Resources; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: SB 121

To: Members of the Senate Resources Committee

Re: SB 121 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 SB 121 asap.

Bo Varsano

Marja Smets

Farragut Farm LLC

Farragut Bay, Alaska

box 1714

Petersburg AK

99833

Betty Tangeman

From: Lori Klein <lori.alaskafamily@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 8:48 PM
To: Senate Resources
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: In Support of SB121

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 121. Members of my extended family have property in Gustavus. Water contamination is a real and devastating issue for them.

Clean water - anywhere...everywhere...is important to me, and I urge you to signal your priority by voting in support of SB 121.

Thank you,

Lori Klein
12410 Glacier Hwy
Juneau, AK 99821

Betty Tangeman

From: Lisa Sadleir-Hart <gardenstandoncharlesstreet@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Senate Resources
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: SB 121 PFAS Use & Remediation; Fire/Water Safety

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



Tom Hart & Lisa Sadleir-Hart, Co-owners
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<https://www.facebook.com/GardenStandonCharlesStreet>