

From: kwon.myong@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Natalie Watson](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Urgent action is needed to address PFAS in Alaska to prevent further harm and to protect public health - pass SB 67 with protective amendments!
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:47:44 AM

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I respectfully submit this letter of support for SB 67 (PFAS Use and Firefighting). Urgent action is needed to address PFAS in Alaska to prevent further harm and to protect public health. I ask that you please prioritize passage of SB 67.

I'm writing as a concerned resident of Southeast Alaska and a friend to someone who lived many years in Yakutat and developed cancer, likely because of PFAS in her drinking water. It is outrageous that we could be exposed to such dangerous toxins in this part of the world, where we have chosen to live on the edge of wilderness.

As you must know, most of the contamination from PFAS in the drinking water of Alaskans has been caused by the dispersive use of

PFAS-based industrial firefighting foams also known as aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) used on airports and military bases. PFAS are now contaminating drinking water in communities from the North Slope to Southeast. Several lakes in Alaska are closed to fishing because of PFAS contamination. PFAS contaminate fish, wildlife, garden produce and backyard chickens.

PFAS are known as "forever chemicals" because they are extremely persistent and have been found in the bodies of people and wildlife. They bioaccumulate and are linked with harmful health effects at extremely low exposure levels including liver damage, immune suppression, decreased fertility, decreased birthweight, kidney and testicular cancer, pregnancy-induced hypertension and pre-eclampsia, increased cholesterol, increased risk of thyroid disease.

The Alaska State Legislature has an opportunity this session to pass SB 67 and protect our drinking water, fish and wildlife resources, and the health of Alaskans from harm associated with toxic PFAS chemicals. In order prevent further harm to water quality, fish, wildlife, and public health, state legislators should pass SB 67 with amendments to strengthen the bill. We ask for your leadership to ensure passage of SB 67 and to strengthen the bill in the following ways:

- 1) Establish enforceable and health protective drinking water standards for PFAS as a class.
- 2) Phase out the use of PFAS in firefighting foams (AFFF) and other product categories. Safe and effective alternatives to the use of PFAS-based firefighting foams are readily available and in use at major airports, military installations, and oil and gas facilities throughout the world.
- 3) Provide safe, alternative drinking water sources to affected communities.
- 4) Provide medical monitoring for people who have been exposed to PFAS and allow for regular tests and procedures to detect latent diseases or other health impacts.
- 5) Prevent incineration of PFAS wastes and contaminated soils.
- 6) Regulate PFAS as a class and eliminate all non-essential uses of PFAS.
- 7) Require comprehensive monitoring.
- 8) Establish surface water action levels to protect aquatic life and public health.

While there is now recognition of the problem, there is yet to be any substantive action to protect Alaskans from PFAS. We need your help. Alaskans have the right to clean drinking water and as a state we need to address this now.

Thank you for your support of SB 67 and consideration of measures to strengthen the bill.

Sincerely,
Ms. Natalie Watson

Juneau, AK 99801-9317

[REDACTED]

From: david.j.abad@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [David Abad](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Urgent action is needed to address PFAS in Alaska to prevent further harm and to protect public health - pass SB 67 with protective amendments!
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:39:21 PM

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

We respectfully submit this letter of support for SB 67 (PFAS Use and Firefighting). Urgent action is needed to address PFAS in Alaska to prevent further harm and to protect public health. We request that you prioritize passage of SB 67.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) is a statewide non-profit research and advocacy organization. They conduct research about contaminants such as PFAS and how they might harm human health. The nonprofit has published a number of studies in the peer-reviewed scientific literature concerning contaminants in Alaska and their endocrine disrupting properties.

Most of the contamination from PFAS in the drinking water of Alaskans has been caused by the dispersive use of PFAS-based industrial firefighting foams also known as aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) used on airports and military bases. PFAS are now contaminating drinking water in communities from the North Slope to Southeast. Several lakes in Alaska are closed to fishing because of PFAS contamination. PFAS contaminate fish, wildlife, garden produce and backyard chickens.

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- 3) Provide safe, alternative drinking water sources to affected communities.
- 4) Provide medical monitoring for people who have been exposed to PFAS and allow for regular tests and procedures to detect latent diseases or other health impacts.
- 5) Prevent incineration of PFAS wastes and contaminated soils.
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While there is now recognition of the problem, there is yet to be any substantive action to protect Alaskans from PFAS. We need your help. Alaskans have the right to clean drinking water and as a state we need to address this now.

Thank you for your support of SB 67 and consideration of measures to strengthen the bill.

Sincerely,
Mr. David Abad

[REDACTED] Juneau, AK 99801-9277

Anne Rittgers

From: Pamela Miller <pamela@akaction.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 6:06 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Testimony presented for Senate Resources Committee hearing March 13 2023

Please include this testimony as part of the official record for the 3/13/23 hearing of the Senate Resources Committee. Thank you.

Testimony for the Senate Resources Committee on SB 67, PFAS Pollution

Monday March 13 at 3:30 pm

Pamela Miller, Executive Director and Senior Scientist,
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Co-Chairs Senators Bishop and Giessel and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 67, a bill to prevent further PFAS pollution. My name is Pamela Miller and I am Executive Director and Senior Scientist of Alaska Community Action on Toxics, a non-profit environmental health and justice research and advocacy organization. First, I would like to introduce people who are part of our fly-in for clean water and in support of this legislation; and ask them to stand—they represent communities affected by PFAS in Anchorage, Elim, Fairbanks, Point Hope, and Yakutat.

SB 67 is a critical step toward protecting Alaskans from the harmful effects of PFAS by turning off the tap and phasing out the use of PFAS in firefighting foam. In 2019, our organization published an investigative report based on thousands of pages of documents obtained through public records and Freedom of Information Act requests. At that time PFAS, our report found documented PFAS contamination at over one hundred individual sites across Alaska.

Currently, there are 469 sites in Alaska where PFAS contamination has been identified in soil and water according to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Most of the water contamination in communities throughout Alaska has been caused by the dispersive use of PFAS-based industrial firefighting foams (aqueous film-forming foams or AFFF) on military bases and airports. 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. This is a burgeoning public health problem that requires urgent action by the Legislature.

SB 67 would phase out the use of PFAS in firefighting foam and allow for the substitution of safe alternatives. There are safe, effective, and economical alternatives to PFAS-based firefighting foams in use around the world on major airports, military bases, and in oil and gas operations. Currently, there are 35 PFAS-free and environmentally preferred products from eleven manufacturers that meet the rigorous requirements of GreenScreen Certified. Certified products are evaluated by an independent third party to ensure full material disclosure and comprehensive ingredient hazard assessment.

Congress directed the Federal Aviation Administration to allow airports to move to fluorine-free foam (although FAA has not yet met the mandated timeline) and has directed the military through the National

Defense Authorization Act to phase out the use of PFAS-containing foam by 2024. The exemption for oil and gas operations should be strictly time limited as has been enacted in states such as CO and CA. PFAS-free fire fighting foams are proving effective at refineries and other oil and gas operations, including large-scale hydrocarbon fires. It is vital to phase out PFAS-containing foam as soon as possible.

PFAS are known as “forever chemicals” because they are incredibly persistent. They bioaccumulate in the food web and can cause serious adverse health effects at extremely low exposure levels. PFAS exposure has been linked with kidney and testicular cancer, reproductive harm and infertility, immune system suppression, thyroid disruption, liver toxicity. Firefighters have a higher incidence of several cancers than the general population and are deeply concerned about exposure to toxic chemicals, including PFAS in firefighting foam and turnout gear.

Our recent report (attached) showed PFAS contamination in Anchorage and Fairbanks North Star Borough lakes as well as in Ship Creek. The samples revealed the presence of toxic PFAS chemicals in all the water bodies that we evaluated in both Anchorage and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. These results show contamination in lakes used for swimming and fishing. The results show contamination in Ship Creek in several locations downstream from Joint Base Elmendorf and Fort Richardson (JBER), an important urban ecosystem for fish, wildlife, as well as fishing. Many PFAS substances are strongly bioaccumulative. For example, in Kimberly Lake, levels in rainbow trout were 2000 times the levels found in the lake water and resulted in closure to fishing. The levels we found in water of lakes and Ship Creek were similar and we are planning to analyze fish from these water bodies because there is no comprehensive testing program by the state.

We urge the Legislature not to stop with SB 67, but to enact measures that are essential to protect public health, including:

- 1) Establish enforceable and health protective drinking water standards for PFAS as a class.
- 2) Phase out the use of PFAS in firefighting foams (AFFF) and other product categories. Safe and effective alternatives to the use of PFAS-based firefighting foams are readily available and in use at major airports, military installations, and oil and gas facilities throughout the world.
- 3) Provide safe, alternative drinking water sources to affected communities.
- 4) Provide medical monitoring for people who have been exposed to PFAS and allow for regular tests and procedures to detect latent diseases or other health impacts.
- 5) Prevent incineration of PFAS wastes and contaminated soils.
- 6) Regulate PFAS as a class and eliminate all non-essential uses of PFAS.
- 7) Require comprehensive monitoring.
- 8) Establish surface water action levels to protect aquatic life and public health.

Many other states are taking the lead in passing comprehensive legislation on PFAS. It is past time to regulate PFAS to protect the health of everyone who drinks water and eats fish from contaminated waters.

Please pass SB 67 out of committee and take urgent steps toward comprehensive legislation to protect Alaskans from further harm associated with PFAS pollution.

Pamela Miller, she/her/hers
IPEN Co-Chair (www.ipen.org) and

Executive Director

[Alaska Community Action on Toxics](#)

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www.akaction.org

Please [donate](#) to support environmental health and justice. Join in support of our work!

We believe that 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.

Anne Rittgers

From: Emily Kane <d[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:26 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: No more PFAS

Spills are inevitable. There are other less toxic options. Please pass SB67 and keep toxins out of our ground water so Alaskans don't drink the stuff. Plus, clean up is really expensive.

Thank you

Dr. Emily Kane

Juneau

Be well!

www.DrEmilyKane.com

Anne Rittgers

From: Gary Miller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 8:28 PM
To: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Senate Resources
Cc: Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: SB67 PFAS

Jesse, thank you for cosponsoring SB67.

As you know, the Juneau fire department used PFAS for firefighting. My wife was a volunteer firefighter and EMT for 10 years and had some exposure to the chemicals. According to the internet, PFAS affect cholesterol levels, the immune system, the thyroid, blood pressure, and higher cancer rates of the kidneys, prostate, and testacies. I hope the bill passes.

Thanks.

Gary Miller
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801-8211
[REDACTED]

Anne Rittgers

From: Greg Streveler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:42 AM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: SB88

I am a longtime Gustavus resident who has watched the spread of PFAS in the heart of my community, mostly from its use related to our airport. Much needs to be done about this, but first is stopping its use and storage for fire fighting.

I strongly favor passage of SB88, with its stipulation that Fire Fighting Foam containing PFAS be removed from airport service ASAP.

thank you,

Greg Streveler
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [Linda Kruger](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: SB67
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:28:56 AM

I'm writing to ask you support of SB 67. We will be paying for PFAS contamination for years to come, in terms of clean up costs, environmental damage and health care. Too many people have been harmed and many continue to suffer from contamination. We need to switch to PFAS-free firefighting foam to avoid further contamination.

Thanks for understanding the importance of this bill.

Linda Kruger

[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

[REDACTED]