

**From:** [sophiekerosky01@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:sophiekerosky01@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Sophie Kerosky](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**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:** Wednesday, March 29, 2023 7:46:24 PM

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Dear Alaska Senate Finance 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.

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. Sophie Kerosky

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