

Submitter: KATHALEEN PARKER
On Behalf Of: Sierra Club Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3512

HB 3512 Sierra Club - PFAS Phase Out Bill

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kathaleen B Parker, and I strongly support HB 3512 to phase out toxic PFAS chemicals in Oregon.

PFAS are a group of chemicals that have been linked to cancer, birth complications, and other serious illnesses.

PFAS are a high priority concern because they do not breakdown easily, they are difficult to treat, and they are found just about everywhere. For these reasons, PFAS have been dubbed “forever chemicals.”

PFAS are a class of manufactured chemicals with heat, water, and oil resistance properties and have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. They are difficult to break down and are present at low levels throughout the environment, and in our homes and food.

Examples of industrial categories proposed for more detailed studies by EPA prior to moving forward with rulemaking, includes:

- o Electrical and electronic components (including semiconductors)
- o Textile mills
- o Landfills

Another category of industries identified by EPA are those where phaseout of PFAS still require further monitoring and potential rulemaking:

- o Pulp, paper

Collectively, Oregon cities, counties and special districts have significant purchasing power to influence market demand for products with less-toxic chemicals. Their purchasing practices also can serve as a model for businesses and residential customers. These efforts can reduce the number of PFAS containing products PFAS in homes and businesses, thereby reducing PFAS-related water pollution.

Lawmakers and regulatory agencies must ensure stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of PFAS regulatory requirements, and leverage resources in implementing actions with the greatest impact in reducing the risks that PFAS pose to public health and the environment.

I appreciate your support prioritizing the removal of toxic chemicals from our everyday materials.

Thank You