

April 23, 2024

The Hon. Kevin Avard, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 1649, relative to prohibiting certain products with intentionally-added PFAS

Dear Chairman Avard and Honorable Committee Members,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our support for HB1649. Because reducing the use of PFAS is essential to protecting the health of our communities and our environment, we urge the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee vote *ought to pass* on HB 1649 as amended by the House.

PFAS are widespread and harmful to human health and the environment

PFAS are a class of chemicals numbering in the thousands. They are highly toxic, causing the state to regulate four PFAS in drinking water and groundwater at the parts-per-trillion level. They are also highly persistent in human bodies and the environment, earning them the apt name “forever chemicals.” The harmful impacts of PFAS on human health are far-reaching and include certain cancers, liver and thyroid dysfunction, fertility issues, neurobehavioral disorders in children, obesity, and immunotoxicity. PFAS have been found in about half the country’s tap water. In New Hampshire, PFAS have been documented in at least 120 private wells and in public water systems. Humans are primarily exposed to PFAS through drinking water, eating fish, breathing contaminated air, and using consumer products that have PFAS.

The costs of PFAS pollution are high

The costs of cleaning up PFAS in our environment and addressing the adverse health consequences of PFAS are mounting and can be anticipated to reach into the tens of billions of dollars nationwide. New Hampshire and its municipalities have already begun to face the costs of testing and/or treating drinking water and wastewater for PFAS.

Reducing PFAS at the source is essential to avoiding harm and solving the PFAS crisis

Because they are so widespread, toxic, and persistent, PFAS must be addressed “upstream” by reducing them at the source. HB 1649 is essential to solving the PFAS pollution crisis—and to protecting the health of our communities and environment—since it prohibits the sale of ten categories of consumer products with intentionally-added PFAS.

Without HB 1649, consumers cannot know if the products they purchase have these harmful chemicals and will continue to expose themselves and their loved ones unknowingly. PFAS in consumer products have contributed to PFAS pollution of waterways, drinking water, groundwater, air, and food sources, causing widespread exposures. Only through stemming the flow of these chemicals in the marketplace can we begin to tackle their environmental contamination and public health consequences.

For these reasons, we strongly support HB 1649 and urge you to vote *ought to pass*.

Respectfully,



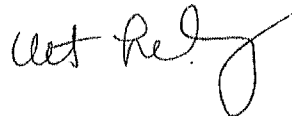
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