



VOTE YES ON HB 3512 – STOP “FOREVER CHEMICALS” FROM HARMING OREGONIANS

WHAT ARE PFAS?

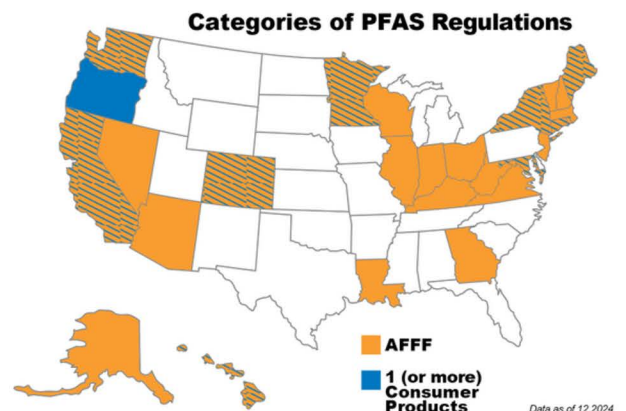
- PFAS are a class of 10,000+ ‘forever chemicals’ that do not break down in the environment and are used to repel grease, oil, and water
- PFAS lurk in everyday products like cookware, toys, carpets, clothes, and cosmetics
- PFAS accumulate in our bodies and the environment; building up over time
- PFAS are pervasive and are found almost everywhere – in our soil, groundwater, drinking water, in breastmilk, and in the blood of 97% of Americans
- Firefighters and military personnel use foam containing PFAS (known as AFFF) to suppress flammable liquid fires like alcohol and gasoline fires

PFAS CAN MAKE YOU SICK

- PFAS can cause serious health problems including: cancers (including testicular, thyroid, kidney), lower birth weight, preeclampsia, thyroid disease, liver damage, ulcerative colitis, high cholesterol, reduced vaccine effectiveness, and fertility issues
- Exposure to PFAS includes absorption through the skin, accidental ingestion, and from inhaling household dust

RECENT ACTION ON PFAS

- Most states regulate PFAS in consumer products and firefighting foam
- The federal government is working to eliminate PFAS from military operations, decontaminate military bases from past firefighting foam releases and help airports move away from PFAS-based firefighting foam
- In 2027, EPA will require public drinking water utilities to test and report for some types of PFAS; by 2029, EPA will require water treatment for PFAS, at an estimated cost of \$1.2 - \$3.2 billion to ratepayers
- EPA designated some PFAS types as Superfund hazardous substances
- Businesses are increasingly offering safer, PFAS-free product alternatives
- Trusted PFAS resources are being developed; Oregon Assoc. of Clean Water Agencies toolkit: <https://bit.ly/3OLrrfC>



oeconline.org/toxics
oeconline.org/PFASfactsheet



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✓ **Protect children's health.**

Children are at a higher risk for toxic exposure because of their physiology and behaviors such as crawling, teething and mouthing. Toxic chemicals also disrupt children’s ongoing development. We should continue to protect Oregon's children from toxic chemicals and build on efforts like the Toxic Free Kids Act and the Toxic Free Cosmetic Act.

✓ **Prevent firefighter illness.**

Firefighters have a 9% higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population. Fire suppressing foam shouldn't poison the firefighters using it.

✓ **Reduce contamination.**

When we stop PFAS at the source, we prevent these chemicals from getting into our soil and water where they can impact the crops, livestock and fish on which we depend.

✓ **Ensure clean drinking water.**

Keeping contaminants out of our water means healthy Oregonians. Ratepayers shouldn't be stuck with the bill for ongoing water treatment costs. Preventing contamination is less expensive than cleaning up messes.

✓ **Prevent toxic product dumping.**

As other states phase out harmful PFAS-laden products, Oregon shouldn't become a dumping ground for companies who can't sell these products elsewhere.

