

Testimony in support of H7356: Comprehensive PFAS Ban Act of 2024

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: March 21, 2024

To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Harmful per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are an urgent public health and environmental issue. A growing body of scientific evidence shows that exposure to PFAS adversely impacts health of humans and other living beings.

Despite these concerns, PFAS are still being added by manufacturers to a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications, resulting in ongoing pollution and poisoning of the environment, workers and consumers. The analogy to still using fossil fuels despite their long-known devastating impact on climate and humans is striking.

Because manufacturers are insufficiently taking responsibility and not aggressively eliminating use of PFAS, urgent policy intervention is needed. H7356 provides that intervention, with the declared intent of the general assembly to ban all uses of PFAS by December 31, 2032.

The bill provides a phased approach, where, for now, with defined exceptions

- PFAS-containing firefighting foam cannot be used or sold by January 1, 2025,
- by January 1, 2027, manufacture, sale, or offering for sale in the state any covered product that contains intentionally added PFAS will be prohibited, and
- from January 1, 2028 forward, product data and quantities will be required to be disclosed for products containing intentionally added PFAS.

This approach is in line with the Federal EPA's expressed recommendation that "Every level of government—federal, Tribal, state, and local—needs to exercise increased and sustained leadership to accelerate progress to clean up PFAS contamination, (and) prevent new contamination".¹

Please bring the bill to a vote, in 2024. Waiting any longer will contribute to adding avoidable additional quantities of toxic PFAS to our homes and environment.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Cortvriend for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

March 18, 2024

71 Fales Avenue
Barrington, RI 02806; (203) 687-6415; clclt17@mac.com

¹ EPA, PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021–2024, page 22: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap_final-508.pdf