

Peter Trafton MD, Providence, RI
Written testimony in favor of H 7356
House Committee on Environment and natural resources, March 21, 2024

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable Committee Members,

I write on behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island with the strongest possible support for Rep Cortvriend's 7356, the Comprehensive PFAS Ban Act of 2024.

The Environment Council is a coalition of environmental organizations and individuals advocating policies and laws that protect and enhance Rhode Island's environment, for more than 50 years.

PFAS chemicals, which last nearly forever in the environment from which they enter our food and water, are also very toxic. They cause cancers, interfere with reproduction and damage our immune systems.

We believe that strong PFAS legislation is essential for our state because of the serious health problems these chemicals cause, their nearly ubiquitous presence in our environment and in so many consumer goods. Furthermore, federal laws have not provided adequate protection. In almost every case, much safer alternatives are available. Focusing on specific consumer goods leads directly to improved safety for Rhode Islanders.

State-by-state, legislators are creating necessary defenses against these commonly used but dangerous products. Rep Cortvriend's 7356 is an excellent example of the legal protection we need to reclaim safety. It phases out PFAS in many products we use every day, requires public disclosure if PFAS is present in any remaining saleable items, and ends the use of PFAS in firefighting foam.

We ask you to pass 7356 to reduce our exposure to PFAS and make Rhode Islanders safer, for generations to come.

Thanks for considering our request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton MD,