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March 21, 2024

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chairman
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7356 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Comprehensive PFAS Ban Act of 2023

Dear Chairman Bennett,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7356, which would prohibit the sale of numerous products containing PFAS substances. DEM supports the intent of this legislation, but we are concerned that we do not have the resources or expertise to effectively implement its provisions.

H 7356 would institute disclosure requirements for certain consumer products containing PFAS, prohibit the sale of other products containing PFAS, and ban the sale or use for training purposes of firefighting foam containing PFAS. DEM agrees that there is an urgent need to address the prevalence of PFAS in a variety of products in common use such as clothing, cookware, and furniture. However, enforcing the prohibitions and disclosure requirements the bill introduces would be a resource-intensive process that we do not believe we could implement effectively with existing resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to work with you to address the issues raised in this letter. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
The Honorable Terri Cortvriend
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director