



**MOTORCYCLE
INDUSTRY
COUNCIL**



January 25, 2023

The Honorable Virginia Lyons
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

The Honorable Tanya Vyhovsky
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

The Honorable Alison Clarkson
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

The Honorable Anne Watson
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

The Honorable Wendy Harrison
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

The Honorable Rebecca White
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

The Honorable Kesha Ram Hinsdale
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

The Honorable Irene Wrenner
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

Re: Exclude powersports protective clothing & equipment from PFAS ban in SB 25

Dear Senators:

Hundreds of companies represented by the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC)¹, the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)², and the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)³ strongly urge that **SB 25 be amended to specifically exclude protective clothing and equipment used when operating a motorcycle or off-highway vehicle from the textile ban beginning July 1, 2026**. In the absence of amendments, our associations oppose the bill.

Manufacturers must ensure our safety gear meets durability standards that are sufficient to protect riders. Any potential PFAS-free alternates must meet durability and safe operation standards that

¹ The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) is a not-for-profit, national trade association representing several hundred manufacturers, distributors, dealers and retailers of motorcycles, scooters, motorcycle parts, accessories and related goods, and allied trades.

² The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) is the national not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers, dealers, and distributors of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the United States. SVIA's primary goal is to promote safe and responsible use of ATVs.

³ The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) is a national, not-for-profit trade association formed to promote the safe and responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs – sometimes referred to as side-by-sides or UTVs) manufactured or distributed in North America. ROHVA is also accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to serve as the Standards Developing Organization for ROVs. More information on the standard can be found at <https://rohva.org/ansi-standard/>.

meet or exceed current quality in order to be deemed a suitable replacement. This takes considerable resources and time not provided in SB 25. Due to the volume of products requiring testing, manufacturers are not confident they can comply with the requirements, especially given that the PFAS apparel ban begins in 2026. We urge the bill be amended to specifically exclude protective clothing and equipment used when operating a motorcycle or off-highway vehicle as follows:

(1) “Apparel” means any of the following:

(A) *Clothing items intended for regular wear or formal occasions, including undergarments, shirts, pants, skirts, dresses, overalls, bodysuits, costumes, vests, dancewear, suits, saris, scarves, tops, leggings, school uniforms, leisurewear, athletic wear, sports uniforms, everyday swimwear, formal wear, onesies, bibs, diapers, footwear, and everyday uniforms for workwear. Clothing items intended for regular wear or formal occasions does not include personal protective equipment or equipment and protective apparel used for safe operation of a motorcycle or off-highway vehicle or clothing items for exclusive use by the U.S. Armed Forces.*

Our member companies are searching for suitable replacements for PFAS in their products, but currently PFAS is an unavoidable use to ensure safety and proper functioning of our vehicles, protective clothing and equipment. Vermont must allow manufacturers sufficient time to find replacements and not subject consumers to risk of harm resulting from unavailability of these products.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 703-416-0444 ext. 3202.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Schloegel
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

cc: Senate Health and Welfare Committee Members