

Date: February 28, 2020

To: The Honorable Sen. Virginia "Ginny" Lyons, *Chair*
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

cc: Sen. Richard Westman, *Vice Chair*
Sen. Ann Cummings
Sen. Dick McCormack
Sen. Debbie Ingram, *Clerk*
Doris Oatley, *Committee Assistant*

From: Martin Wolf
Director, Sustainability & Authenticity
Seventh Generation, Inc.
Burlington, VT 05401

RE: Testimony in support of S.295 An act relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (continued)

Dear Sen. Lyons:

On behalf of Seventh Generation, thank you for this additional opportunity to testify ***in support*** of S.295 An act relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances as used in class B firefighting foam; food packaging; rugs and carpets, and children's products

This testimony is a continuation of testimony presented before the Committee on February 21, 2020.

Members of the Committee sought assurance that cost-effective products would be available if the use of PFAS chemicals is restricted. Indeed, it is the case that in all the

product categories identified in S.295, Class B firefighting foams, food packaging, rugs & carpets, and children's products, cost effective alternatives to PFAS chemicals exist.

Class B Firefighting Foams

As stated in the testimony of Bradley Reed before this Committee, and as stated in the attached report from the Washington State Department of Ecology, over 90 PFAS-free Class B firefighting foams have been certified for use.

Food Packaging

Alternatives to PFAS-treated food packaging ware are also available and are often less expensive. Paperboard coated with clays, waxes, polyethylene, or polylactic acid are available. Many are compostable or recyclable. Unfortunately, many are not. New York State procurement guidelines currently restrict purchase of food service ware treated with PFAS, and a bill was introduced this session to ban sale of PFAS-treated food service ware within New York State (S.2000/A.4739A).-A report prepared by the Northwest Green Chemistry Council identifying alternatives to PFAS-coated food service ware is attached.

Rugs & Carpets

Sale of rugs and carpets treated with PFAS is already restricted at progressive retailers that offer "PFAS-free" alternatives with dirt-repelling properties. As more rugs and carpets are recycled, keeping persistent, toxic, bioaccumulating substances out becomes increasingly important. It is up to us to prevent the contamination of future generations with these substances.

Children's Products

Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of substances such as PFAS chemicals. I am not aware of any children's product that necessitates the use of PFAS.

In Conclusion

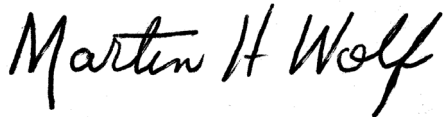
Seventh Generation and other responsible businesses already exclude thousands of chemicals of concern, including PFAS, bisphenols, and phthalates, from their formulation pallets. We will not use, and there is no need for us to use, substances that are known or likely to cause cancer, or substances known or likely to express

reproductive toxicity, or substances known or likely to be persistent, bioaccumulating, and toxic.

By prohibiting the use of PFAS in firefighting foam, food packaging, rugs and carpets, and children's products, Vermont would protect our public health and our environment and fulfill the policy of the state to reduce exposure of its citizens and vulnerable populations, such as children, to toxic chemicals, particularly when safer alternatives exist.

Thank you for your attention to, and consideration of, these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin H Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Martin Wolf
Director, Sustainability & Authenticity
Seventh Generation, Inc.