I'm writing to urge you to eliminate any language in S. 20 that allows exemptions to the use of PFAS in Vermont. There are flourine-free alternatives to the fire-fighting foams that the Natural Guard now uses, and there is no reason for them to be exempt from this necessary step to protect Vermonters from this toxic chemical.

If the legislature places a complete ban on PFAS, what do you really think the National Guard will do, pull out of Vermont? Take the state to court so they can continue using this toxic chemical (thereby drawing national attention to their use of a "forever" chemical)? No, they will quickly adopt an alternative that's safer for our groundwater and surface waters.

Do the right thing. Take a stand for the health of Vermont and our environment.

Thank you,

Steven Gorelick Walden