



Vermont Businesses
for Social Responsibility

April 22, 2021

House Committee on Human Services
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear House Committee on Human Services,

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Thank you for your tireless work over the last year to channel support to Vermont businesses and families impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The work of this Committee, and that of the legislature writ large, has helped to keep us healthy and whole throughout this crisis.

Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR) is a statewide, nonprofit business association with an enduring mission to create a just, thriving, and transformative economy that works for all people and the planet. Our diverse membership represents all sectors and geographic regions of Vermont, employing more than 14% of Vermont's workforce and generating more than \$4 billion in revenue annually; 60% of our members have been in business more than 10 years.

We are writing on behalf of our 650 member businesses and organizations to express our support for S.20, An act relating to restrictions on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other chemicals of concern in consumer products. PFAS chemicals are linked to negative health impacts, including: high blood pressure, thyroid disease, kidney and testicular cancers, and suppressed immune system function. Unfortunately, these chemicals are still used in a wide variety of products imported into our state.

S.20 would help protect the health of Vermonters from toxic chemicals and help businesses better protect their consumers and employees by banning PFAS and other harmful chemicals from consumer products and firefighting foam in Vermont.

Safer alternatives to the product categories targeted in S.20 exist in the marketplace, and many businesses already exclude these chemicals from their manufacturing, as noted by VBSR member Seventh Generation in their testimony before this committee on April 14th. We applaud the efforts within the business community to help protect our state from these harmful chemicals and ask the legislature to support and strengthen their efforts through the protections provided in this bill.

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue and urge you to support S.20 to help stop the flow of toxic chemicals into Vermont.

Thank you,

Roxanne Vought
Executive Director