

From: Marguerite Adelman
Date: March 10, 2021 at 4:37:20 PM EST
To: Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Subject: S.20

Dear Senator Lyons, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare:

I will be listening to tomorrow's hearing on S.20. While all aspects of the proposed legislation are important to me, I especially want to see PFAS, in the form of AFFF fire fighting foam, banned in Vermont. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and especially VTANG must be held responsible for cleaning up the PFAS contamination that flows from the Airport through my hometown of Winooski and into Lake Champlain, as well as the contamination at 6 other military sites in Vermont.

According to EcoWatch, the U.S. DoD is both the nation's and the world's largest polluter, producing more hazardous waste than the five largest U.S. chemical companies combined. U.S. military bases, both domestic and foreign, consistently rank among some of the most polluted places in the world, as various toxins contaminate our ecosystems. PFAS is especially dangerous and is known as a "forever chemical" that bioaccumulates in our water, soil, wildlife, and bodies. A recent review from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outlines a host of health effects associated with PFAS exposure, including cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease.

We are quickly discovering that there are no safe limits for PFAS in our environment. We must stop using it now and we must ban its use across the Vermont in order to protect our environment, wildlife, and the health of our citizens. There should be NO exceptions; we must do no harm now or to future generations of Vermonters.

Sincerely,
Marguerite Adelman
Winooski, VT