

February 3, 2025

To: House Committee on the Environment

From: Marguerite Adelman, Burlington, VT
VT PFAS/Military Poisons Coalition
and VT Pesticide and Poison Action Network Member

Re: *Revised* Act 131 and Working Group Report

Please enter my letter into testimony opposing the Revision of Act 131, based on S.25 that was passed last legislative session and signed into law by Governor Scott.

I base my opposition to the revised bill, based on the following reasoning:

- 1) It changes the definition of PFAS from the one in the original Act 131. Vermont must stick with the [original PFAS definition](#) that is supported by a majority of PFAS specialized scientists. The new definition eliminates a number of consumer goods in the original Act 131 because it limits the number of PFAS regulated.
- 2) It does not look at [PFAS in pesticides](#) as demanded in the original Act 131.
- 3) The Act 131 Working Group overstepped its mandate to develop a [program](#), instead developing a revised law. In fact, "the Agency of Natural Resources shall obtain input on its recommendation from interested parties, including those that represent environmental, agricultural, and industry interests."
- 4) The revised law further delays implementation of restrictions on PFAS, endangering our citizens and the environment.
- 5) The revised law is confusing, especially on the implementation guidelines (as noted by Michael O'Grady when presenting an overview of the proposed revision). Relying on population statistics from surrounding states to implement this revised law is ridiculous. I've always been proud of Vermont being a leader in environmental concerns. According to [Safer States](#), **24 states** have introduced **113 policies** to protect people from toxic PFAS chemicals. **154 state policies** have been adopted in **30 states**.

I urge you to reject the Working Group's Report and the Revised Act 131. Last year, two committees in the Senate worked diligently on S.25: The Senate Agriculture Committee and the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. It went to the House Human Services Committee and then to the full Legislative Body. After hours of testimony and debate, it seems ironic that an entirely new committee in the House (Environment) is now dealing with the Working Group Report and a revised Act 131 without being privy to the hours of work done by the previous committees.

While watching the White House dismantle most of our environmental protections and programs, I urge the Vermont Legislature to stand firm in protecting all species and the environment from these chemical poisons. And I urge the House Committee on the Environment to reject this Working Group Report and Revised Act 131.