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February 18, 2025

Hon. Rep. Amy Sheldon
Chair,
Vermont House of Representatives
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Re: H. 238 - An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Dear Representative Sheldon:

I am President and CEO of AGC America, an international company with almost 4,000 employees working in chemicals, life sciences, automotive glass, electronic materials and R&D operations throughout the U.S. I am writing to offer testimony highlighting some concerns that we have with H-238 – Per & Poly Fluoroalkyl Protection Act, and to offer suggestions on how to improve the bill.

First, let me be clear, AGC appreciates the legislature's efforts to tackle contamination in Vermont from a small group of PFAS chemicals. We have testified in states across the nation considering PFAS legislation and we have supported legislation, such as Colorado's recently enacted law, focused on eliminating sources of PFAS in consumer products such as juvenile products, cookware, food packaging and other similar products.

Regrettably, H-238, goes well beyond banning PFAS-containing consumer products. It would also ban complex durable products such as cell phones, computers and components used in cars critical to the businesses and residents of Vermont. While we have several concerns with this proposed bill, our main concern is that H-238 would treat all 14,000+ PFAS compounds the same way. However, they are not the same. This is especially true for fluoropolymers.

which our chemicals company processes and sells to customers throughout the U.S. to make complex durable products such as wiring insulation for airplanes and electric vehicles, electrical components for cell phones and computers, and gaskets, fuel lines and seals for motor vehicles and manufacturing equipment.

Unlike other PFAS chemicals such as PFOA and PFOS, fluoropolymers are inert, non-toxic, and are not bioavailable. Importantly, they do not dissolve in water, so they cannot migrate to groundwater and do not dissolve in wastewater or drinking water. They also provide a unique combination of physical, chemical and electrical properties that enhance the safety, reliability and durability of products under a wide range of operating conditions. Perhaps unintended, under the current draft of this bill complex durable products such as those noted above containing fluoropolymers would be banned in Vermont starting in 2033.

As this bill is considered by the legislature, we urge you to amend the bill to focus on only those PFAS substances that have the greatest potential environmental and health impacts and exclude products containing fluoropolymers from any product bans.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and we look forward to working as a partner with you and the Legislature on these issues as you consider this legislation further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Correnti', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher F. Correnti
President and CEO
AGC America, Inc.