

*Emailed testimony from Matt Chapman 2/27/2025*

Chair Sheldon and Rep Chapin –

In response to your question regarding fluorinated containers. I have asked the same question of the regulated community on numerous occasions and received very vague responses. Here are my basic understandings of fluorinated containers.

- They are certainly used on products on the phase out list (cleaning products, cosmetics, etc.) but their use is much broader. Based on my research, they are commonly used transporting commercial chemical inputs to consumer or other products. This would include solvents, oxidizers, and other chemical or natural inputs into commercial products. It is also used to transport some products like pesticides or cleaning products.
- The approach the committee is taking is similar to my understanding of the approach being taken by the State of Maine. (phasing out fluorine treated containers that have covered products in them).
- There are alternatives for most/all fluorinated containers but likely at a higher price. There may be some issues with respect to container performance or the need for purity in the input but again, I have not been provided any specific examples, and I have asked lobbyists for this information in response to their concerns.
- US Dept. of Transportation shipping regulations do not require the use of fluorinated containers. I conferred with VTrans and it is both our opinions that USDOT regulations around materials in transport do not require the use of fluorinated containers and that there are alternatives that would meet the requirements of the regulations. This is an interpretation – USDOT administers the regulations.
- Product phase outs in the European Union would phase out fluorinated containers in 2030 (see Autumn Harp written testimony).

Hope that this information is useful.

Thanks,

Matt