

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

I am writing to you about H.238 – *An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances*. This bill replaces Act 131 (S.25) which your committee passed in 2024. While we support H.238 in general, we believe that it can be improved and made more consistent with the intent of Act 131 in the following ways:

1. Consumer pesticides must be added into this piece of legislation. Act 131 included pesticides with PFAS. While Vermont's Public Health and Agriculture Resource Management seem to have a romance with the pesticide industry, we do not need PFAS in pesticides used by consumers in the home and in their gardens. We can at a minimum protect human health in the consumer pesticide industry.
2. The recommendation date for a report about PFAS in food needs to be moved up. The PFAS in food is almost directly related to PFAS in industrial pesticides and biosludge and biosolid fertilizers. January 15, 2033, is far too late for what we now know about how our food is poisoning us.

PFAS (which can last for thousands of years in our soil, water, and air) are the new asbestos, posing a worldwide threat to human health, all species, and our planet. We must move quickly to address these "foreverwhere" toxins in our environment.

Sincerely,

Cara Montague

Winooski, VT