

Senator Lyons and Senate Health & Welfare committee members.

I'm here today to testify on the proposed inclusion of H.250 into H.238.

My name is Past Asst. Chief Dean Gilmore.

I've spent 48 years in the New Haven Volunteer Fire and presently in the City of Vergennes Fire Department, into my 50th year as a volunteer firefighter.

I represent the Addison County Firefighters Assoc. on the Vermont State Firefighters Assoc. executive board and chair their Governmental Affairs Committee a position I've held for the past 21 years.

Although we are not seeking to stop the ban on PFAS, we are asking you to slow down the process to ban it in our fire gear and SCBA's. We have been asking the question of what this means to the protection of our firefighters? There's indications we lose thermal protection, we lose durability, we lose compatibility with our present gear, etc. The cost is unknown currently. What is the higher risk for our members?

We know there's PFAS in everything we come in contact with on a daily basis, so where's the higher risk?

We are looking at the ongoing studies and the outcomes hoping to get our questions answered at least to the degree of which we can make informed sensible decisions.

We have no issues with requiring the notice of PFAS in our gear, uniforms, SCBA's etc. but would ask that you consider holding off on the set date of banning until we can get more data. The best Firefighter safety is our main goal! We have no interest in when other states have for dates, our interest is in getting it right the first time!

Thank you for your time and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Past Asst. Chief Dean Gilmore

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