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**American
Sustainable
Business
Network**

16 March 2023

Senator Matt D. Klein, Chair
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Minnesota State Senate
Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF-0834, An Act relating to environment; prohibiting PFAS in certain products; requiring disclosure; authorizing rulemaking; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116.

Dear Chair Klein and Committee Members:

On behalf of Seventh Generation and the American Sustainable Business Network, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of SF-0834, An Act relating to environment; prohibiting PFAS in certain products; requiring disclosure; among other things.

Seventh Generation is the nation's leading brand of household and personal care products designed to help protect human health and the environment. Established in 1988, our Burlington, Vermont based company employs over 120 people, distributing products to natural food retailers, supermarkets, mass merchants, and online retailers across the United States and around the world.

seventhgeneration.com

Among the products manufactured and sold by Seventh Generation are laundry detergents, dish detergents, hand soaps, household paper products, baby diapers, baby wipes, and menstrual products.

The American Sustainable Business Network (ASBN) is a multi-issue membership organization representing **over 250,000 businesses** across the United States. ASBN advocacy is focused on three broad priorities: Climate, Democracy and an Inclusive Economy. Seventh Generation is a member of ASBN.

Seventh Generation and ASBN **support** SF-0834 as it will protect both human health and the environment by taking proactive measures against PFAS and promote the development of a more sustainable Minnesota economy.

The Problem

Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) are used by manufacturers for their grease- and water-proofing properties, and low flammability, among other useful properties. PFAS are commonly used in cookware, cosmetics, food packaging, outdoor apparel, carpets, and firefighting foams among other products. During manufacture and use PFAS are discharged into Minnesota's waterways. PFAS are known as "forever chemicals" because they don't break down in the environment. Once in Minnesota soil and waterways they will be there "forever."

PFAS have been linked to serious health problems such as cancer, hormone disruption, immune system suppression, decreased vaccine response, and reproductive problems. The US EPA has determined that there is no safe level of exposure to certain PFAS chemicals and proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels in drinking water of 370 parts per **trillion**.

More than 2,800 sites in all 50 states are contaminated by PFAS, forcing states and localities to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on cleaning up PFAS pollution in their communities and providing safe drinking water for their residents.

Nearly every American has PFAS in their body. They are found in blood, breast milk, and even umbilical cord blood of newborn babies. Scientists from around the world are calling on governments to eliminate the entire class of PFAS where possible due

to the significant human health and environmental impacts. A 2022 UN Human Rights Commission report urged countries to ban all uses of PFAS.

Other States Are Acting

State governments are taking legislative and regulatory action to phase out PFAS in products to prevent contamination in favor of safer alternatives. For example, laws in ME and WA have given state agencies authority to ban PFAS in a wide range of products.

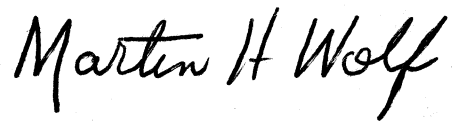
- Eleven states including CA, CO, CT, HI, ME, MD, MN, NY, RI, VT, and WA have enacted phase-outs of PFAS in food packaging.
- Five states including CA, CO, MD, ME, and VT have adopted restrictions on PFAS in carpets, rugs, and aftermarket treatments and regulatory action is pending on these products and other home textiles in WA.
- CO adopted restrictions on indoor and outdoor furniture as well as oil and gas products.
- CA is phasing out PFAS in children's products.
- VT has banned PFAS in ski wax.
- Three states including CA, CO, and MD are taking action to eliminate PFAS in cosmetics.
- Eleven states including CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, ME, MD, NH, NY, VT, and WA have put in place bans on the sale or use of firefighting foam containing PFAS.

How Minnesota can Protect Its Citizens

Legislation is needed to ban PFAS, educate consumers about the products they purchase, and give Minnesotans the right to pursue legal action against companies for exposing them to toxic chemicals.

This bill will protect Minnesota families' health and financial wellbeing. Minnesotans shouldn't keep paying to clean up toxic PFAS contamination in their environment and drinking water, only to see more being dumped back into the environment and Minnesota's waterways. Action is needed and we are grateful to the authors and urge support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin H Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M' and 'W'.

Martin Wolf
Director, Sustainability & Authenticity
Seventh Generation, Inc.
Advisor,
American Sustainable Business Network