

From: Anna Schlien - aschlien0809@gmail.com  
RE: SF 450/HF372, SF 834/HF1000, SF 776/HF742

Dear Legislators,

I live in Rice, Minnesota. All of our recreation is centered on our water. We boat, jetski, ice fish, and spend time at the cabin on the water - lake life is our lives. I have three children with my husband.

A few years ago, we lost my brother in law to a brain tumor. We don't know what caused his tumor, nor do we care. We just know he's gone. If these bills protect one family from losing a loved one, it's worth it.

I also worry about the cost to clean up dirty water, and the cost to filter water. I'm a small business owner and my husband is a roofer. We do ok, but we aren't wealthy by any means. Unexpected medical bills or the need to buy a big filtration system for our home to filter out chemicals from the water would break us.

We already pay enough in taxes, and while I support my taxes going to clean up these chemicals to keep our lakes and rivers healthy, I don't support the continued flow of new chemicals into the water only to spend more money to clean them up. We need to ban these chemicals once and for all.

As a mom, if my kids made a terrible mess with something over and over again, I'd take it away. That's common sense. These big companies don't care about Minnesota. They don't care what sort of mess they are making because they are making massive profits. What will happen to our tourism industry when no one can eat fish because of contamination? My husband is a hunter and we eat the deer he hunts. Deer across the midwest are so tainted with PFAS we're advised not to eat them.

This is ridiculous. These chemicals are fundamentally changing Minnesota. I urge you to pass the firefighting foam loophole closure to protect our firefighters. Please pass the information disclosure bill so I know what I am purchasing for my family. And PLEASE ban the sale of the awful chemicals. You can save lives and money with one vote. This isn't a partisan issue. Democrats and Republicans in my community both recognize the danger of these chemicals and want action taken. It's an easy choice to make - vote yes for the FPAS Prevention Package.

Thank you,

Anna Schlien  
350 2nd St Ct SW  
Rice, MN 56367

From: Ben Rule - [benrule01@gmail.com](mailto:benrule01@gmail.com)  
RE: SF 450/HF372, SF 834/HF1000, SF 776/HF742

My name is Benjamin Rule. When I was 16 years old I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. By the time it was discovered the Leukemia had already spread throughout 76% of my body, and it was the first of my many close calls. The following 5 years were comprised of an aggressive treatment plan where I went through countless doses of countless types of chemotherapy, frequent spinal taps, multiple surgeries, during which I developed numerous complications, as well.

One of the more major complications was severe pancreatitis due to an allergic reaction I had to a specific chemotherapy the third time I received it. It was already the most painful chemo to receive that I can recall, but the severe pancreatitis that followed quickly outclassed it. The pancreatitis resulted in me needing to be placed in a medically induced coma for 11 days to stop my body from shutting down completely, and when I woke up from the coma it was discovered that I was now a Type 1 Diabetic due to the damage that ensued in my pancreas. I was placed on a high dose of steroids to hopefully reverse the damage done to my pancreas before it was "set in stone", but unfortunately that didn't work and instead it only resulted in avascular necrosis in a few of my joints, primarily in my left hip. The ball and socket joint on my hip had deteriorated into a spike, and I had to walk on it for a few years before I was able to get a hip replacement due to the aggressive treatment plan that I was still undergoing for Leukemia. I will have to undergo the same surgery in the future as hip replacements don't last forever.

About a year after the coma it was discovered that there was also heavy scarring in my pancreas that was blocking the blood flow between it and my spleen, and my spleen was well on track to bursting because of this. I ultimately had to get my spleen and part of my pancreas removed immediately after that discovery, adding another tally to my excessive amount of near death experiences at such a young age.

I went through years of intense physical and emotional turmoil, isolation from my friends and peers, and essentially the complete dismantling of the life I once lived. I was below rock bottom and then suddenly my treatment plan was complete, and my cancer cured, and I was "set free" and told to go make a life for myself.

I beat Leukemia, but I lost myself in the process and I didn't know how to go on.

Over the years of treatment I had watched everyone I grew up with progressively grow and leave me behind while I was stuck in the hospital, and suddenly I was expected to be right on track with them again as if the last few years never happened. I felt like I had nothing and nobody at this point, and I didn't want to continue. I was able to eventually find a mental health program that helped me learn how to carry on before it was too late, and I managed to find the

strength to build a new foundation on the rock bottom where I was stranded for years and lift myself out of the pit to begin anew.

But let me make it clear, in my situation, I'm one of the lucky ones - simply because I survived.

I grew up and lived the majority of my life in the Oakdale area in Minnesota. I went to Tartan High School in Oakdale as well, and I mention this because of the abnormally high number of students who have been diagnosed with some form of cancer while attending there. This is the same area where 3M's PFAS chemicals permeated the ground water and the surrounding environment. While there is no 100% guarantee that the PFAS chemicals are what gave me Leukemia, the same higher than normal rates of cancer in relation to PFAS chemical exposure are happening in Australia, too, next to another 3M plant. The evidence cannot be ignored any longer.

It is unacceptable to allow these forever chemicals to destroy not only our city, but our environment and our planet as well. If PFAS chemicals are even remotely to blame for my illness then I fear for the other people, families, and children living in the areas where they are at risk of exposure. Nobody deserves to go through what I did. We all deserve clean water and good health. We all deserve accurate information, and regulation over, and full disclosure about, the effects of PFAS chemicals that are being forced upon not only humanity but the flora and fauna that live in and make up our environment, as well.

3M has an eco-responsibility to address and remedy the PFAS chemical situation as well as protecting and preserving our planet. This is our only home, where we're all born and we all spend our lives trying to find happiness and meaning, and without any kind of intervention or accountability those ideals will only get harder and harder to achieve. Oakdale deserves better, 3M. So does Minnesota, so does America, so does Australia, and so does our planet.

From: Derek Lowen - d\_lowen@outlook.com  
RE: SF 450/HF372, SF 834/HF1000, SF 776/HF742

My name is Derek Lowen and I am writing this to talk about my experience with PFAS. In 2004 I started my freshman year at Tartan High School in Oakdale, MN. Upon entry into the school, it wasn't long until I learned of the "cancer kids" there. At Tartan we had the usual social groups like jocks, popular kids, geeks, nerds, and so on; but we also had the cancer kids which stood out among the rest.

In early October 2004 I was diagnosed with a brain tumor roughly the size of a baseball, this was discovered after at least a year of enduring terrible headaches. I was lucky in that I didn't need chemo, but my friends weren't so lucky. My best friend's sister, who lived only a few blocks from me and was diagnosed with leukemia and she luckily survived. But I know or know of several who didn't survive, In 2005 a senior I knew died of leukemia, in 2007 we lost another one. I've lost count of all the victims. But one thing I know that we all have in common is drinking groundwater from within the PFAS chemical plume in the eastern suburbs of the twin cities.

I know my cancer best, so I'll detail what I've gone through. First I had headaches that felt like my eyes were going to explode, this is what prompted me to get the MRI that found the tumor. After discovery I was rushed to children's hospital St. Paul and put on IV steroids to shrink the tumor for easier removal. The tumor was in contact with my cerebellum and the size was one of the largest my neurosurgeon had seen. I was under the knife for I think 9 hours and they were able to remove all of it. Now for the consequences, I have a permanent traumatic brain injury. I have lost nearly all of my memories from before my tumor and still suffer from ongoing memory loss problems. The worst part to me about memory loss is that there are instances when I've made good memories with friends or family, but the memory is blank. For example, my family went to gooseberry falls not long before the tumor was discovered, I was there, I've seen pictures. I don't remember being there though, almost completely blank as the only thing I remember from that day was parts of the drive there. I also have problems with balance and motor skills which will never go away, and to top it off I'm more susceptible to concussions.

Now 3M basically built this area that is true, but because of the settlement with the state over PFAS contamination the public now knows the truth that 3M hid the dangers for 50 years. 3M poisoned our water to save a buck or two. Heck the state settlement with 3M didn't even affect their bottom line. But it was a starting point to at least put that funding into remediating the ongoing chemical exposure to the public. I support these bills in reducing our exposure to PFAS wholeheartedly and I hope for the legislature to support them as well. At least maybe we can hold companies manufacturing PFAS accountable to reduce public exposure, to reduce the victims of these forever chemicals and the companies that manufacture them.

From: Donna Bahls  
RE: SF 450/HF372, SF 834/HF1000, SF 776/HF742

Dear Senator Liebling,

As a Minnesotan who lives on the Mississippi River and owns a cabin in Aitkin County, I am concerned about pollution in our waters. Specifically, I am concerned about PFAs in our water because of their threats to health, both as a contaminant in surface water and ultimately as a contaminant in our drinking water.

The first step in managing these pollutants is to stop manufacturing, distributing and using products containing PFAs in Minnesota. Please support SF 450, SF 834, and SF 742.

Thank you,  
Donna Bahls  
Fridley, MN

From: Greg Laden - laden.greg@gmail.com  
RE: SF 450/HF372, SF 834/HF1000, SF 776/HF742

Dear Legislators,

I live in Plymouth, Minnesota. I am responsible for a teenager, and I have a grown daughter and several other friends and relatives who all share the same odd trait: They drink water. In fact, they are made mainly of water, as are all humans. And, increasingly, our water is contaminated with potentially dangerous "forever chemicals."

PFAS and related compounds are the legacy of a past culture in industrial and regulatory America. Invent a chemical that a) has some marketable uses, b) produce and market it, as widely as possible, then c) later discover that the chemical has a serious negative environmental or health impact.

There is often yet another step: Let the government, aka, taxpayers, aka, those affected by the negative outcome of this commercial enterprise, pay to clean up the mess.

Don't get me wrong. I support the idea of taxpayer money going to important projects like cleaning up the environment. I believe in good government, and I believe the taxes buy us something important: civilization.

But, the main beneficiaries of PFAS production are not a nameless, faceless, unknown entity. They are corporate giants with deep pockets. Please hold them responsible.

I urge you to pass the Firefighting Foam Loophole Closure (SF776 / HF742).

Thank you,

Greg Laden  
15300 37th Ave N Apt A124  
Plymouth, MN, 55446

From: Mike Fisher

RE: SF 450/HF372, SF 834/HF1000, SF 776/HF742

I am writing in support of the PFAS Prevention Package. I work two jobs - one full time job as an appliance repair technician and I own my own business. My business specializes in appliance repair, appliance installation, handyman projects, and outdoor spaces. I started this business to have something to hand down to my sons. My oldest just graduated from high school and is working on becoming a licensed electrician. My youngest is only 15 months old.

I've been learning a lot about PFAS. With the birth of my youngest, I watched my partner struggle to pump. She was only able to produce two ounces at a time, so she was focused on eating a milk producing diet and constantly pumping. It would take her an entire day (while working a full time job) to pump one 8 ounce bottle. To learn that her breast milk delivered PFAS to our new baby was nothing short of devastating. She did everything right and still felt like a failure at keeping our baby healthy and safe.

As a business owner and full time employee I'm working double duty to help provide for my family. I take side jobs after work hours and on the weekends. I do this to be able to afford a nice house in a safe neighborhood and to save for my children's future. But now I'm learning to redefine "safe." Safe doesn't only mean freedom from crime, poverty, access to food, or medical care. Now I have to add toxic chemicals to the list of things that threaten my family's safety.

The lobbyists who zoomed in from across the country to oppose the PFAS Prevention Package in the recent Senate hearing kept talking about giving components of products a free ride. They said that no one comes into contact with components so there's no threat to people from them. I beg to differ. I touch the insides of things that people aren't meant to touch. I fix them by digging around in their innards. Sometimes they cut me, scrape me, bruise me, or even get into my mouth. If the internal component is broken, I dispose of it - which then presents the risk of entering a landfill which will, as we know, inevitably leak into the ground water.

Because of COVID I already come home and go directly to the shower - and I wish I could say that I do that 100% of the time. But sometimes, my baby is standing by the sliding door because he's heard the gate open and he's waiting for me with his little arms up. Of course I swoop him up and hug him. Am I rubbing dangerous toxins onto my baby? Are they getting into my washer when I wash my clothes and then transferring to his? I have no way to know because there's no law saying manufacturers have to disclose if they use PFAS.

The PFAS Prevention Package needs to be passed to protect Minnesotans now and for the future. This threat to our health and our pocketbooks is unsustainable.

Thank you.

Keep my water safe,

Nilly

