

“Forever Chemicals are in Minnesota’s water”

Testimony by Carol Bidwell

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Chair and Committee Members, My name is Carol Bidwell. I am a supporter of the Minnesota Move to Amend.

“Forever Chemicals are in Minnesota’s water”

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances: That’s the non-abbreviated name for PFAS, a group of industrially produced chemicals with an increasing level of concern surrounding them. PFAS are favored for their durability and they provide properties such as non-stick, water repellency, anti-grease, used in many products such as cosmetics, frying pans, outdoor gear and firefighting foam. PFAS chemicals end up in our sewage systems, landfills (after disposal) and end up in our rivers. They are known to accumulate in plants and animals as they move through the food chain, therefore ending up in the foods we eat including milk and eggs. Epidemiological studies have found associations between PFAS exposure and a number of health disorders including kidney cancer, lowered birth weights and effects on the immune system.

The PFAS chemicals found their way into the drinking water of several Minnesota communities statewide after years of chemical disposal by Maplewood-based 3M Co., prompting an \$850 million settlement in 2018 between the state and company. But PFAS are still in use and in our waters.

Last year the Minnesota House considered three bills that would ban a family of forever PFAS but they did not pass in the Senate.

Corporations use their personhood claims to constitutional rights and their money as weapons to fight against regulation, and accountability for poisoning our waters and the people of Minnesota.

“We the people of Minnesota reject corporate personhood, and seek to amend the constitution so that constitutional rights unequivocally belong to the people and cannot be used by the courts to invalidate regulatory laws”

Thank you!