



February 26, 2023

Dear Chair and Members of the committee,

Reuse Minnesota is submitting this letter in support of HF1000/SF0834: PFAS prohibited in certain products.

Reuse Minnesota is a nonprofit dedicated to championing reuse in our state. **Our membership includes small and large repair businesses, resale stores, and rental shops, as well as government entities, consultants, and individuals who support reuse.** Minnesota is home to more than 10,000 reuse businesses that generate \$5 billion each year. Their work helps avoid CO₂ emissions equivalent to 100,000 gas-powered vehicles on an annual basis.

Reuse Minnesota supports prohibiting the manufacture or sale of new cookware, clothing, upholstered furniture, and other products containing PFAS chemicals in the state of Minnesota. While we appreciate the exemption on the resale of used items, the presence of these legacy chemicals in consumer goods creates an environmental and ethical dilemma in the reuse sector. These items become a moral burden for our thrift stores who must decide if they want to sell such products to their customers or deal with the expense of disposal. For charitable organizations that rely on used goods to assist people who are in need of household goods, items with PFAS become an environmental justice issue as they get passed on to communities that rely more heavily on secondhand items. In addition, our government members educate the public on the proper way to recycle or dispose of items. It is often unclear what the “right” answer is when it comes to items containing PFAS, due to the long-lasting nature of the chemicals and if they might show up in recycled products. Eliminating the use of PFAS chemicals in the manufacture of products addresses these concerns upstream and in turn reduces the number of problematic items passed on to Minnesota reuse organizations.

Prohibiting the use of PFAS chemicals in cookware, clothing, and other products is a necessary action for our state to take in order to protect the health of Minnesotans and the environment. Reuse Minnesota appreciates your consideration of this bill and urges your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily K Barker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Barker
Executive Director