



**CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA**

March 24, 2023

Chair Murphy and Members of the State and Local Government and Veterans Committee,

We write today to ask for your support of SF 834 (Morrison), prohibiting the avoidable use of PFAS in products that Minnesotans and their families use every day.

At Conservation Minnesota, our mission is to protect the people and the places that Minnesotans love. Safeguarding Minnesotans and their communities from toxics has been a longstanding priority of this mission, from restricting the use of TCE, to preventing the use of PFAS in food packaging. We believe that SF 834 is the responsible next step in toxics prevention, and we thank Sen. Morrison for bringing it forward.

Already, this committee is well aware of the dangerous, long-term health impacts of PFAS. These “forever chemicals” may lead to increased cholesterol levels, liver changes, decreased birth weights, increased blood pressure in pregnant women, and increased risk of kidney or testicular cancer. And we know that these impacts are reaching every part of our state.

The PCA’s Closed Landfill Program found that 97% of monitored landfill sites in Minnesota contain PFAS contamination. In Ramsey County, and Hennepin, Washington, Wright, Anoka, Rice, Chisago, Chippewa, Wabasha, and beyond; residents are living in close proximity to study sites that show PFAS levels above health standards. And we need to understand what this means.

Every member on this committee has constituents; adults, pregnant women, children; who make their meals on toxic cookware, who wash their hair with toxic shampoo, and who put their kids to bed on toxic mattresses. Then, they’re throwing these products away to landfills where PFAS is leaching into their water supply. It’s making them sick, and it’s costing their communities millions in water treatment.

We know that PFAS is dangerous. We know that it’s affecting Minnesotans. But still, we have not passed reasonable, comprehensive legislation to solve this problem. Minnesota cannot, in good conscience, allow producers to continue to knowingly and avoidably sell toxic products to local families.

This bill is an opportunity to take responsibility. To acknowledge an issue, and to fix it. Carpets, cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, fabric treatments, juvenile products, textile furnishings, ski wax, and furniture are products that Minnesotans need every single day. By prohibiting the use of PFAS in these products, SF 834 takes a major step toward limiting toxic exposure in our homes. And with the addition of language from SF 450 and SF 776, this bill also ensures greater transparency in the use of PFAS and greater prevention of PFAS use in firefighting foam.

In combination, SF 834 takes necessary action in the re-examination and reduction of toxic PFAS use and provides common-sense protection for Minnesotans and their loved ones. *We respectfully urge your support.*

Sincerely,

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