

April 7, 2025

Sen. Matt Klein
Sen. Judy Seeberger
Sen. Gary Dahms
Sen. Zach Duckworth
Sen. Nick Frentz
Sen. Steve Green
Sen. Jeff Howe
Sen. Ron Latz
Sen. Jordan Rasmusson
Sen. Ann Rest
Sen. Melissa Wiklund

Dear Chair Klein:

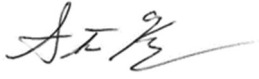
We are writing to express our support for **Article 7, Section 2 of the DE amendment for SF2216 (Klein)**, which provides a temporary and targeted exemption for internal components within upholstered furniture that “do not come into direct contact with a person's skin or mouth during reasonably foreseeable use or abuse of the product.”

BIFMA has worked hard over the last year with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), stakeholders and lawmakers to request a targeted exemption to remedy this issue, keeping intact Minnesota’s PFAS restrictions for fabric coverings but exempting mechanical and electrical components. We are grateful for MPCA’s engagement with us and their January report which recommended an exemption for these types of internal components.

The internal components covered by this language are used in furniture equipped with basic electrical components, such as lift chairs used by the elderly, massage chairs, chairs with power outlets, and recliners. Additionally, many furniture products incorporate mechanical parts to improve ergonomics, including tilt, recline, and height-adjustment mechanisms. It is currently not possible for our industry to remove PFAS from those mechanisms. Without action, there would be a major disruption to furniture offerings available to Minnesota, as well as manufacturers of those products beginning this July.

This language would align Minnesota law with PFAS restrictions in place for these products in other states including California, Washington and Colorado. It is an environmentally conscious alternative, preserves furniture choice for Minnesotans, protects furniture dealers and manufacturers in the state and allows our industry to continue pursuit of clean chemistry to remove these chemicals from our products. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback.

On behalf of BIFMA and its members,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kooy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Kooy
Technical Director Health and Sustainability
Business + Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)