



**Testimony in support of H5019, Consumer PFAS BAN Act of 2024
Hearing Date: February 6, 2025**

Chair Bennett & Honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of RI and as Climate Team Chair for the League, I am testifying **in support of H 5019**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – **CONSUMER PFAS BAN Act of 2024**.

First off, thank you for the Committees' support and passage last year for the oh-so Comprehensive PFAS Ban Act. It was exactly what Rhode Islanders needed. The public needs to be aware of (and protected from) the presence of these toxic chemicals in so many of the products we use.

H5019, the Consumers PFAS Ban Act to is a critical follow-up to last year's PFAS Ban. This bill specifically prohibits "manufacturers from producing, knowingly selling, offering for sale, or distributing for use in the state any firefighting protective equipment containing intentionally-added PFAS". We need to protect all our firefighters who have for so long been wearing PFA-infested protective gear, exposing them to the dangers of these forever chemicals.

PFAS or Per- and Polyflouroakyl Substances are manmade chemicals used to create coatings and products that will resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. These substances also resist breaking down easily in the environment, so they're known as "forever chemicals". And they are toxic! A growing body of scientific evidence indicates PFAS pose serious health risks to both people and animals for a very long time.

Firefighters across the state are ready to risk their health and safety with every local emergency. Their protective gear is also often used when doing drills or training in their communities. They certainly don't need to be put at greater risk because the "protective gear" designed to protect them is made with toxic chemicals.

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island urges you to **support H5019**.

Thank you,

Diana (Donnie) McGee

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