



THE BAY CENTER
100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, R.I. 02905
phone: 401-272-3540

SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE
8 Broad Street
Westerly, R.I. 02891
phone: 401-315-2709

HAMILTON FAMILY AQUARIUM
23 America's Cup Ave, First Floor
Newport, R.I. 02840
phone: 401-324-6020

Sent via email to: HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov

DATE: March 31, 2026

TO: House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

FROM: Jed Thorp, Director of Advocacy, Save The Bay

RE: House bill 7734 – amendments to Consumer PFAS Ban Act of 2024

Save The Bay **SUPPORTS** the proposed changes to the Consumer Products PFAS Ban Act of 2024 in House bill 7734.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or “PFAS”, are a class of chemical compounds that are both extremely toxic and incredibly persistent in the environment, making them one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. Given the difficulty in treating and removing PFAS from the environment after the fact, the best approach is for state and federal governments to work to remove PFAS from products where safer alternatives exist. The legislation – now law – passed by the General Assembly in 2024 does exactly that, and mirrors similar laws passed in other states in recent years.

The proposed changes to the law in H7734 were submitted at the request of the Department of Environmental Management and appear to strengthen the law by providing clarity and making it easier for the Department to enforce. We do have some reservations about the proposed language that gives the Director of DEM the authority to grant exemptions to the law for certain products or product categories that meet specific criteria. We trust that this will only be invoked when absolutely necessary and not be used to create blanket exemptions to the law.

As always, the Department could use additional resources and staffing to enforce this and other environmental laws and rules. We ask that the General Assembly consider increasing the Department’s full-time employee (FTE) cap and budget for environmental permitting and enforcement.

Thank you for considering our comments.