



Your Dreams, Our Challenge

**March 31, 2026**

**The Honorable Chair Bennett**

House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Rhode Island State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Re: Comments on House Bill H7734**

Good afternoon, Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is Stephanie Monteiro, testifying on behalf of AGC America.

AGC is a global innovator with advanced manufacturing and R&D facilities in the United States. AGC shares your goal of addressing PFAS contamination and has supported legislation in other states that restricts PFAS in consumer products when those restrictions are clear and targeted.

However, as drafted, the bill treats all PFAS as the same, and they are not. PFAS is a broad class of thousands of different chemicals with very different properties.

For example, fluoropolymers are a small, well-studied subset of PFAS. Unlike PFOA and PFOS, fluoropolymers are not found in soil, water, or in our bodies. Because of this, the EU, Canada, and states like New Mexico regulate fluoropolymers differently from other PFAS chemicals.

Fluoropolymers are critical to many everyday applications. They are used in wiring for electric vehicles and airplanes, in gaskets and O-rings for vehicles and manufacturing equipment, in protective coatings for bridges and water infrastructure, and in medical devices such as pacemakers and heart stents.

Although the bill seeks to limit bans to certain consumer products, its reach may extend beyond its intended scope due to the broad PFAS definition. Minnesota passed a similar ban on PFAS in juvenile products. Still, it later had to exempt certain vehicles because

fluoropolymers in wiring and electronics would have led to those vehicles being banned, simply because juveniles could use them.

To avoid unintended consequences like those seen in Minnesota, we respectfully urge that the Rhode Island bill be amended to exempt fluoropolymers or focus on PFAS chemicals of concern rather than the entire class of PFAS.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to work with the committee as you consider this bill.

Thank you,

*Stephanie Monteiro*

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