

THE PROBLEM

Toxic chemicals known as Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been linked to testicular and kidney cancer, liver damage, hormone disruption, increases in cholesterol, thyroid disruption, asthma, reproductive disorders including infertility, low birth weight, and decreased response to vaccines.

Despite the dangers, PFAS are used in firefighting foam, nonstick cookware, water-repellant clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, cosmetics, food packaging and food service ware.

There are more than 4,700 PFAS in use today, and their prevalence has caused pollution at 1,398 sites in 49 states, including Connecticut. PFAS have been found in the tap water of millions of homes across the United States. Furthermore, the United States Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR) found that PFAS were more harmful than previously thought stating that supposed “safe levels” were 10 times less than previously thought.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Connecticut must pass a bill to restrict the use of class B firefighting foam (PFAS chemicals) at commercial airports and all training sites, unless required by federal law. Washington, New Hampshire, New York and many other states have passed these bills and more will do so in 2021.

Legislators should also pass a bill to restrict food packaging and food service ware containing PFAS chemicals. PFAS in these products leaches into food and is a large source of exposure. The marketplace is already shifting to phase PFAS out of these products but legislation restricting their use will go a long way to protect the health of Connecticut residents and prevent more contamination of the environment when these products are disposed of.

Connecticut must provide funding to DEEP for comprehensive, on-going monitoring of water sources and other high-potential sites including landfills, wells and agricultural sites.

Connecticut must set a health protective drinking water standard for PFAS chemicals.



FAST FACTS

- ◆ In December 2020, New York joined Washington and Maine in passing a **ban on PFAS** in food packaging that goes into effect in 2023.
- ◆ Toxic PFAS chemicals are known as **“Forever Chemicals”** because they remain in our bodies for years, and in the environment for millions of years. As PFAS build up in the environment, future generations risk exposure at higher levels than today.
- ◆ **PFAS contamination** has been found at fire training sites, industrial plants, military bases, civilian airports, agricultural sites, ground and drinking water sources, landfills and in compost.
- ◆ An estimated **110 million Americans** have been exposed to PFAS chemicals in their drinking water at levels above “safe” estimates.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about PFAS chemicals and pollution, contact:

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