



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

February 8, 2021

Co-chairs Cohen and Borer, Vice-Chairs Slap and Gresko, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and other distinguished members of the Environment Committee

Re: Raised Bill 837 An Act Concerning the Use of Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Class B Firefighting Foam.

Honorable members,

The Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (Council) supports the purpose of SB-837, namely, to prohibit the use of firefighting foam containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (collectively referred to as PFAS) for training purposes and establish a take-back program for such products.

The response to the June 9, 2019 accidental release of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) from the Signature Flight aircraft hangar at Bradley Airport increased public awareness that these foams present a risk to public health and the environment. PFAS are not broken down by natural processes. They could persist in the environment indefinitely, earning them the nickname “forever chemicals.” They can bioaccumulate in humans and animals and have been linked to health effects ranging from developmental effects in fetuses and infants to certain forms of cancer, including testicular and kidney cancer. Substantiated health risks appear at environmental concentrations as low as parts per trillion (ppt), or nanograms per liter (ng/L).

The purpose of the Raised Bill conforms to the advisory of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to fire departments in June of 2019 that recommended cessation of training with AFFF and use only when tactically necessary for the protection of life and property. A buyback program should accelerate the removal of these substances and reduce the risk to the environment.

The Council supports this effort to remove a potential source of environmental contamination.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Hearn
Executive Director

