

**Tom Dimond**

2119 Skyway Drive

Saint Paul, MN 55119

HF 1000 and SF 854 – Toxic PFAS

Thank you for working to address toxic PFAS that threatens people and wildlife.

Regulating PFAS in our environment is an urgent need. The health risks to people and wildlife are extensive. PFAS bioaccumulates. This increases the health risks. Residents of Ramsey and Washington County are on the frontline of this crisis. We face significant health and economic threats from discharge of PFAS into our air, land, and aquifers.

As a resident of Saint Paul, our well was installed and tested to meet State and Local health standards. The well is 222 feet deep or roughly 22 stories down into the earth. PFAS does not exist in the natural environment. PFAS is man-made pollutant. MPCA tested our well and found 5 PFAS pollutants in our water. The State failed to protect the aquifer under the homes in our neighborhood.

The aquifer has toxic chemicals produced by man. The discharge of waste containing PFAS has contaminated the water essential to survival. We purchase bottled water. You cannot water your garden because the toxins pollute your soil and food. A primary responsibility of government is to protect the public, the water we drink, the soil our food grows in, and the air we breathe. We have taken wildlife to the DNR for testing. The DNR does not have adequate funds to test wildlife for cause of death in the State Critical Area and Scientific and Natural Area. This includes Bald Eagles, Herons, Egrets, River Otters and other species threatened by PFAS.

MPCA has placed us and our neighbors on the whole house filtration system list. There are so many people with toxic PFAS water problems, the MPCA cannot give a date for filter installation to ensure safe water to drink.

Filters and provisions in this legislation are important steps but do not address the discharge of PFAS on lands, aquifers, and air of the State. The PFAS problem will remain until we limit discharge of PFAS to regulated facilities that ensure toxins are not released into our environment where it threatens our health and wellbeing and that of the wildlife of our State.

Eighty million gallons of toxic PFAS laden pollutant is being discharged into our aquifer. The PFAS easily migrates through the soil impacting a growing number of residents in BIPOC Majority neighborhoods. The public, America's National symbol the Bald Eagle, Herons, Egrets, River Otters are a short list of those negatively impacted. The State Scientific and Natural Area Heron Rookery population has dropped significantly. Testing eggs from the rookery have recorded some of the highest pollutant levels found in the world.

**Please include language to stop the toxic discharge of PFAS on the Lands, Aquifers, and Air of our State. PFAS discharge should be limited to regulated facilities that can ensure toxins are not released into the environment. Wildlife do not have PFAS filtered out of their water and food chain.**

I attended the February 14<sup>th</sup> House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee. I did not get a chance to testify before Chair Hansen requested that public testimony be limited due to the full agenda. I am submitting this as my written testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or I can be of assistance. (651) 735-6667

*Historically, BIPOC neighborhoods have suffered the greatest from discharge of toxic waste. We should not leave these neighborhoods out of the proposed legislation.*