



Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

February 3rd, 2021

MCEA, a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment, supports this bill, and thanks the author for bringing this forward. PFAS pollution is persistent, dangerous, and expensive to remediate. Aggressive and proactive measures are needed to curb further intrusion of these insidious chemicals into our state's ground and surface waters. Classifying these chemicals as hazardous substances under the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act ("MERLA") is a step in the right direction.

Classifying PFAS as a hazardous substance under MERLA will have positive financial consequences. More money will be available to fund clean-up efforts if these chemicals are listed under MERLA. Our experience in the East Metro teaches us that remediating PFAS pollution is incredibly expensive. Having more resources available to remove these chemicals from our ecosystems makes eminent sense.

Moreover, remediating PFAS contamination is needed to protect human health. Emerging science has uncovered additional links between PFAS consumption and a bevy of adverse health outcomes, including diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, liver toxicity, and kidney dysfunction. Alarmingly, the science has linked these adverse health outcomes to consumption of vanishingly low levels of PFAS concentrations, underscoring the need for an aggressive response. While classifying these chemicals under MERLA won't immediately solve the problem, it is a vital tool the state should use to fight current and future contamination.

MCEA applauds the Committee's efforts to address this growing problem. We encourage the Committee to swiftly move this bill forward.

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