



# SIERRA CLUB

## NORTH STAR CHAPTER

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March 23, 2026

RE: HF4257

Dear Co-Chairs Heintzeman and Fischer and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the North Star Chapter of Sierra Club in opposition to HF4257.

HF4257 would delay reporting of the use of PFAS in manufactured products by eighteen months. More importantly, it would exempt large categories of products from reporting and from the 2032 ban of PFAS use altogether.

This bill is unnecessary and would significantly weaken Amara's Law and is unnecessary. Amara's law, passed in 2023, bans sales of products containing intentionally-added PFAS by 2032 except for those determined to be currently unavoidable. There is already a provision in Amara's Law for companies to request an exemption if their use of PFAS in a product is currently unavoidable and is essential for the functioning of society. The MPCA is working on new rules to govern how the Agency will determine currently unavoidable uses (CUU) and are accepting comments until March 28, 2026.

By excluding large categories of products rather than using the CUU process, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to enforce Amara's Law. With the CUU process, all products are banned unless the manufacturer submits required information and the MPCA determines that the use is unavoidable. This is a clear, straightforward process and should be implemented as it was passed in 2023. Otherwise, companies will have no incentive to reduce or eliminate their use of PFAS and the PFAS pollution crisis will continue to grow.

One example of a category that would be exempt with this bill is fluorinated gases (F-gases). The use of F-gases is so widespread that they are responsible for more than half of all PFAS pollution. Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) is a degradation product of F-gases and TFA, an ultrashort-chain PFAS, is found ubiquitously in drinking water and human blood. It bioaccumulates and is readily taken up by plants, including crops. It is difficult to filter from drinking water and poses a risk to human health and the environment. TFA concentrations are increasing and the best way to address that is to stop the production and use of chemicals that break down into TFAs.

Some businesses argue that PFAS used in internal components do not pose a risk to consumers and should not be covered under Amara's Law. Although consumers are exposed and can have high levels of PFAS in their bodies due to their use of products, such as cosmetics, industrial discharges of PFAS are among the most significant sources of exposure. Including PFAS in any product risks polluting drinking water and impacting nearby communities. Workers are also exposed during production and when products are repaired.

Disposal of products containing PFAS is also a serious problem. According to MPCA estimates, PFAS can be bought for \$50 - \$1,000 per pound, but costs between \$2.7 million and \$18 million per pound to remove and destroy from municipal wastewater. Biosolids, long considered a benefit when applied to farm fields, pose a risk for growing crops or grazing animals. Farms in Maine and Michigan have been forced to shut down because of PFAS contamination. If the full cost of PFAS was included in the price, companies would move swiftly to find alternatives for almost every use.

HF4257 would extend the reporting requirement from January 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027. This should not be allowed. Companies, where PFAS is a featured part of their product, are aware and should be able to provide the required information. However, for companies that are not aware that PFAS is part of their supply chain, it is critical for them to uncover this information. There are organizations, like ChemSec, that specialize in assisting companies to replace toxic chemicals, like PFAS, with safer alternatives.

There is clear evidence that the production and use of PFAS have caused global contamination. PFAS is the most persistent human-made chemical known to date. It is linked to serious health problems. It is critical we continue the progress we have made in Minnesota to eliminate it. PFAS poses an unacceptable risk to the environment and our health. Amara's Law has a clear process for addressing unavoidable use and should not be weakened.

Sincerely,

Margaret Levin  
State Director  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

References:

[https://chemtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/TFA\\_FAQ\\_June\\_2025.pdf](https://chemtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/TFA_FAQ_June_2025.pdf)

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.4c06189>

<https://chemsec.org/f-gases-unveiled-as-primary-contributors-to-the-pfas-pollution-crisis/>

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter is the Minnesota branch of the national Sierra Club. We are 50,000 Minnesotans empowered to protect our communities' well-being through environmental protection.