



SIERRA CLUB

NORTH STAR CHAPTER

North Star Chapter
2300 Myrtle Ave, Suite 260
St Paul, MN 55114

March 4, 2025

Minnesota House
Environment and Natural Resources Committee

RE: HF81 and HF1627

Dear Chair Heintzeman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the North Star Chapter of Sierra Club in opposition to HF81 and HF1627.

In May 2000, the EPA and 3M announced that 3M would voluntarily phase out and find alternatives for PFAS because it was bioaccumulating in people and the environment. Instead, they tweaked the formula and kept making it. Now we have more than 15,000 PFAS chemicals in production and no place on the planet is free of PFAS pollution. We in Minnesota know first-hand the damage this chemical has caused to health and the environment. In 2023 we passed the strongest law in the country, Amara's Law. This law was long overdue. Now is not the time to weaken it.

Wherever PFAS is produced or used in manufacturing, the surrounding community is at risk of contamination to their air, water and soil. Workers at those facilities are also at risk, as are their families if they happen to bring contamination home with them. Repair people are also exposed to PFAS even when it is only used internally in products and does not pose a risk to consumers. At the end of their life, products that contain or are treated with PFAS, along with industrial equipment used to manufacture it, end up at incinerators or in landfills, where PFAS continues to spread and pollute the environment, especially our water.

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.

HF81 would carve out exemptions for snowmobiles, e-bikes, and off-highway vehicles used by kids twelve and under. If this is allowed, kids and adults who do maintenance or repair work on these products will be at risk from exposure to PFAS.

HF1627 would exempt commercial and industrial products from PFAS restrictions entirely. This is unacceptable. The law currently in effect allows the commissioner to determine where the use of PFAS in a product is unavoidable. If a product is essential for the functioning of society and there are no alternatives for PFAS in that product, an exemption could be allowed, as determined by the commissioner. A blanket exception for all commercial and industrial products is not necessary.



SIERRA CLUB

NORTH STAR CHAPTER

North Star Chapter
2300 Myrtle Ave, Suite 260
St Paul, MN 55114

HF1627 would also extend the reporting requirement from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028. 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, this reporting rule is critical for them to uncover this information. Without it, they will not be able to search for alternatives.

There are organizations, such as ChemSec, that specialize in assisting companies who want to find alternatives to the hazardous chemicals they currently use. Alternatives to PFAS are available for many uses and the sooner companies identify them, the sooner they can remove PFAS from their products.

There is clear evidence that the production and use of PFAS has caused global contamination. PFAS is the most persistent human-made chemical known to date. It is linked to serious health problems. PFAS poses an unacceptable risk and Amara's Law, passed to address these risks, should not be weakened.

Sincerely,

Lori Olinger
Co-Chair, Zero Waste Task Force
Sierra Club North Star Chapter