

Citizen Resolution # 020421

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Imposing Stricter Regulations on PFAS Chemicals

PFAS chemicals (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are found in objects such as Teflon, water resistant clothing, food packaging, and firefighting foam. These man made chemicals are carcinogenic, disrupt early childhood development, interfere with human endocrine systems, and pose a significant threat to our aquatic species and ecosystems. PFAS water contamination is undoubtedly a pervasive environmental issue; there are more than 50 PFAS contamination sites across Wisconsin.

Due to the historical lack of regulations of PFAS chemicals, Wisconsin communities have suffered from consuming contaminated fish and drinking contaminated water. Fishing is an integral part of Wisconsin life, but its future is threatened by PFAS contamination. Because PFAS chemicals accumulate in fish, the DNR has issued fishing advisory warnings on major waterways around the state including Lake Superior, Lake Monona, and the Biron and Petenwell Flowages of the Wisconsin River. Communities reliant upon fishing such as the GLIFWC member tribes are particularly vulnerable to the ramifications of PFAS pollution. Wisconsin's drinking water has also been sacrificed to PFAS contamination. Hundreds of residents across the state are now reliant on bottled water as their groundwater and well water is unsafe to drink due to high levels of PFAS. To address this environmental and public health crisis and to recommit to protecting every Wisconsin residents' right to fish and drink clean water, it is imperative that stronger regulations are imposed on PFAS chemicals and PFAS clean-up processes in order to reduce future PFAS contamination sites and clean up waterways that are already contaminated.

To address this environmental and public health crisis and to recommit to protecting every Wisconsin residents' right to fish and drink clean water, it is imperative that stronger regulations are imposed on PFAS chemicals and PFAS clean-up processes in order to reduce future PFAS contamination sites and clean up waterways that are already contaminated. This should begin with testing drinking water across Wisconsin.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the DNR should continue to advocate for strong PFAS protections and clean-up to ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking water and safe consumption of Wisconsin fish.

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