

Citizen Resolution # 660223



Protective Limitations on PFAS Compounds

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of over 4,000 "forever chemicals." PFAS substances continually accumulate in the human body in never decreasing amounts. 98% of Americans have measurable levels of PFAS in their blood.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), certain PFAS pose risks to human health, including developmental problems in fetuses and infants, certain types of cancer, reduced antibody response, decreased immune response to vaccinations, and kidney disease.

People accumulate PFAs from a wide variety of consumer products, water repellants, non-stick pans, stain resistant materials, cosmetics, fire-fighting foams, fast food wrappers and paper production and biosolids or wastewater sludge applied to farm fields as a substitute for fertilizer. Eating fish and game can also be a major contributor to PFAS accumulation in our bodies. PFAS contaminate fish across the U.S., with higher levels in the Great Lakes. In fact, A group of scientists, the Environmental Working Group, found the median amounts of PFAS in freshwater fish were an astounding 280 times greater than PFAS detected in some commercially caught and sold fish. In Michigan, smelt consumption from Lake Superior has been restricted to a suggested 8 oz portion per month for adults.

Should the Legislature, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health develop and enact protective limitations on PFAS compounds for acute and chronic toxicity in surface water, wildlife health, groundwater, fish consumption, and human health?

Additional Information provided by author:

This resolution has been discussed and is supported by the Government and Environment Committee and the Board of Directors, both entities of the Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association
<https://www.ewg.org/news-insights/news-release/2023/01/ewg-study-eating-one-freshwater-fish-equals-month-drinking>

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