DATE

Joint Committee on State Administration & Regulatory Oversight

By email at: haley.dillon@masenate.gov, jordon.latham@mahouse.gov

Re: S.2053, An Act establishing a moratorium on the procurement of structures or activities generating PFAS emissions - Testimony in Support

Dear Chairs Collins and Cabral, Vice-Chairs Lovely and Tyler, and Members of the Joint Committee on State Administration & Regulatory Oversight:

I am writing to urge this Committee to take action to protect the public health and environment from the dangers associated with PFAS by establishing a moratorium on the procurement of structures or activities generating PFAS emissions. BRIEF STATEMENT ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND WHY YOU CARE ABOUT THIS ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE: I am a member of Clean Air Taunton, a group currently working to protect our community from the siting of a proposed sewage sludge gasification facility in our community. The proposed facility would receive 500 tons of sewage sludge daily and, after gasifying this material, would send emissions into the air through a 127+ foot high stack. We are very worried about what this would do to our community members’ health and to our environment, not to mention other communities downwind of the facility.

This Committee is, no doubt, familiar with the research that demonstrates how dangerous PFAS chemicals are to the public health and our environment. Children’s exposure to PFAS chemicals, for example, has severe negative impacts on their health.[[1]](#footnote-2) Similarly, firefighters exposed to PFAS face increased health risks.[[2]](#footnote-3)

While our state currently has standards in place with respect to various settings (e.g. drinking water), there are no standards with respect to air emissions. We must not gamble with our health and our environment. Until such time as our state and the federal government have promulgated standards with respect to all types of PFAS emissions, such as those implicated with the proposed sewage sludge gasification facility in Taunton, this legislature must act boldly to prohibit the procurement of PFAS-emitting structures or activities as provided by this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. I urge you to support this critical piece of legislation to protect communities like Taunton and Massachusetts as a whole.

Sincerely,

NAME

1. Jesse Goodrich et al, *Metabolic Signatures of Youth Exposure to Mixtures of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: A Multi-Cohort Study*, Environmental Health Perspectives (Feb. 22, 2023); Sandee LaMotte, *Child growth and development hampered by PFAS in blood, study says,* CNN (Mar. 20, 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Gabrielle Emanuel, Firefighter Union Sues Mass. Group Over Toxic Chemicals in Protective Gear, WBUR (Mar. 16, 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)