**Elevator Pitch**

“PFAS are a class of thousands of chemicals that can be found in a variety of everyday consumer products like clothing, cosmetics, carpeting, and non-stick cookware. They are known as forever chemicals because their strong carbon-fluoride bonds don’t break down in nature and can buildup in fish, wildlife, and in our bodies. PFAS has been linked to thyroid disease, high cholesterol, and even certain cancers such as kidney and testicular cancer. The Michigan legislature must act to protect our health and environment by setting a maximum contaminant level for PFAS in our drinking water.”

**PFAS - the “Forever Chemical”**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of thousands of chemicals widely used in manufacturing and consumer products.

They are often referred to as “forever” chemicals, because their strong carbon-fluoride bonds don’t break down in nature. Moreover, they build up in fish, wildlife, and in our own bodies.

These chemicals are widely used in firefighting foam and in everyday consumer products like pizza boxes, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant furniture and carpeting, clothing and shoes, cosmetics, and non-stick cookware.

**Health Effects**

PFAS has been detected in human blood, semen, and breast milk. PFAS can cross the placenta, exposing unborn children.

In humans, PFAS has been linked to high cholesterol, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, and even certain cancers such as kidney and testicular cancer.

**PFAS contamination is widespread in Michigan.**

The Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART), has found PFAS in bodies of water across Michigan.

The State estimates that there are potentially 11,300 polluted sites contaminating the water of nearly 1.4 million Michigan residents.

* Oscoda: Firefighting foam used at Wurtsmith Air Force base contaminated soil, ground and drinking water. A “do not eat” advisory was issued for fish in Clark’s Marsh and the Au Sable River and for deer around the base.
* Ann Arbor and Huron River: Two automobile supply plants in Wixom that discharged PFAS into the Huron River, resulting in high levels in municipalities along the Huron River watershed and “do not eat” advisories for fish. Water in Ann Arbor exceeded EPA recommendations, requiring advisories and new filtration systems.
* Parchment: PFAS levels 25 times the EPA’s recommended level were detected in drinking water and traced to an old paper mill that used PFAS to coat food-wrap paper.

**Alternatives to PFAS in Firefighting Foam**

Michigan should ban the sale, distribution, and use of PFAS firefighting foam.

The legislature should support HB 4389 which requires reporting on PFAS use and creates a take back program for PFAS-firefighting foam which will facilitate getting these toxic chemicals out of circulation.

There are many fluorine-free class B firefighting foams available on the market. The Ann Arbor Fire Department has already voluntarily made the switch.

The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse reports that there are 100 fluorine-free foams on the market and sold by 25 different foam manufacturers. These foams meet a variety of standards of efficacy for Class B firefighting foams.

**The Michigan Legislature must act to protect our health and our natural resources.**

* Support the creation of a health protective maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water. Levels should be set by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy by considering the most sensitive health endpoints for each contaminant and should be written to protect the most sensitive population like developing babies.

* Ban the sale, distribution and use of firefighting foams containing PFAS chemicals. Support HB 4398 which would establish a program to take back existing stock of PFAS foams.

* Assure all state purchasing eliminates the purchase of PFAS-containing products where they are non-essential or when safer alternatives exist.

* Provide adequate funding to continue testing for PFAS chemicals, remediation of contaminated sites, and treatment funds for water utilities and private well users to provide safe drinking water. In particular, support the Governor’s proposed budget requests for PFAS.
* Create a publicly available database and maps of all known sites of contamination (PFAS and other contaminants of concern), along with test results as they are received.