



PO Box 7114  
Wilton, CT 06897  
norwalkriver.org

March 5, 2020

Re: SB 297 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR  
POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the Environment Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Norwalk River Watershed Association which represents over 1500 participants in the seven watershed towns of Norwalk, Wilton, Ridgefield, Redding, Weston, New Canaan, and Lewisboro NY to ask for your support of SB 297. As you know, PFAS chemicals pose a severe and growing threat to human health and the health of our environment, especially our rivers and Long Island Sound.

The first step, certainly, is to “turn of the tap” and stop adding these toxins to our environment. After the recent spill of 40,000 gallons of PFAS-containing firefighting foam into the Farmington River from Bradley Airport, there are few in CT who aren’t concerned about this foam as a public health and environmental health threat. We urge you to support ending the use of PFAS in firefighting foam for training purposes immediately, instead of by 2021 as the bill states. Europe has already banned this foam. There are proven alternatives that do not contain PFAS chemicals. Why wait and allow more of this “forever chemical” to enter our air and water? There is no way to clean it up, it never breaks down, and it accumulates in our bodies and in our seafood. More information is here:

<https://www.cleanwateraction.org/features/we%E2%80%99re-taking-toxic-pfas>

We urge you to support this bill with amendments that move forward the deadlines for ending its use. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Louise Washer, President  
Norwalk River Watershed Association

New Canaan, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, Wilton, Lewisboro NY