

To: MN House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
From: Anna Schlien - aschlien0809@gmail.com
RE: HF2096

Dear Legislators,

I live in Rice, Minnesota. All of our recreation is centered on our water. We boat, jetski, ice fish, and spend time at the cabin on the water - lake life is our lives. I have three children with my husband.

A few years ago, we lost my brother in law to a brain tumor. We don't know what caused his tumor, nor do we care. We just know he's gone. If these bills protect one family from losing a loved one, it's worth it.

I also worry about the cost to clean up dirty water, and the cost to filter water. I'm a small business owner and my husband is a roofer. We do ok, but we aren't wealthy by any means. Unexpected medical bills or the need to buy a big filtration system for our home to filter out chemicals from the water would break us.

We already pay enough in taxes, and while I support my taxes going to clean up these chemicals to keep our lakes and rivers healthy, I don't support the continued flow of new chemicals into the water only to spend more money to clean them up. We need to ban these chemicals once and for all.

As a mom, if my kids made a terrible mess with something over and over again, I'd take it away. That's common sense. These big companies don't care about Minnesota. They don't care what sort of mess they are making because they are making massive profits. What will happen to our tourism industry when no one can eat fish because of contamination? My husband is a hunter and we eat the deer he hunts. Deer across the midwest are so tainted with PFAS we're advised not to eat them.

This is ridiculous. These chemicals are fundamentally changing Minnesota. I urge you to pass the firefighting foam loophole closure to protect our firefighters. Please pass the information disclosure bill so I know what I am purchasing for my family. And PLEASE ban the sale of the awful chemicals. You can save lives and money with one vote. This isn't a partisan issue. Democrats and Republicans in my community both recognize the danger of these chemicals and want action taken. It's an easy choice to make - vote yes for the FPAS Prevention Package.

Thank you,

Anna Schlien
350 2nd St Ct SW
Rice, MN 56367

To: To: MN House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
From: Ben Rule - benrule01@gmail.com
RE: HF2096

My name is Benjamin Rule. When I was 16 years old I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. By the time it was discovered the Leukemia had already spread throughout 76% of my body, and it was the first of my many close calls. The following 5 years were comprised of an aggressive treatment plan where I went through countless doses of countless types of chemotherapy, frequent spinal taps, multiple surgeries, during which I developed numerous complications, as well.

One of the more major complications was severe pancreatitis due to an allergic reaction I had to a specific chemotherapy the third time I received it. It was already the most painful chemo to receive that I can recall, but the severe pancreatitis that followed quickly outclassed it. The pancreatitis resulted in me needing to be placed in a medically induced coma for 11 days to stop my body from shutting down completely, and when I woke up from the coma it was discovered that I was now a Type 1 Diabetic due to the damage that ensued in my pancreas. I was placed on a high dose of steroids to hopefully reverse the damage done to my pancreas before it was "set in stone", but unfortunately that didn't work and instead it only resulted in avascular necrosis in a few of my joints, primarily in my left hip. The ball and socket joint on my hip had deteriorated into a spike, and I had to walk on it for a few years before I was able to get a hip replacement due to the aggressive treatment plan that I was still undergoing for Leukemia. I will have to undergo the same surgery in the future as hip replacements don't last forever.

About a year after the coma it was discovered that there was also heavy scarring in my pancreas that was blocking the blood flow between it and my spleen, and my spleen was well on track to bursting because of this. I ultimately had to get my spleen and part of my pancreas removed immediately after that discovery, adding another tally to my excessive amount of near death experiences at such a young age.

I went through years of intense physical and emotional turmoil, isolation from my friends and peers, and essentially the complete dismantling of the life I once lived. I was below rock bottom and then suddenly my treatment plan was complete, and my cancer cured, and I was "set free" and told to go make a life for myself.

I beat Leukemia, but I lost myself in the process and I didn't know how to go on.

Over the years of treatment I had watched everyone I grew up with progressively grow and leave me behind while I was stuck in the hospital, and suddenly I was expected to be right on track with them again as if the last few years never happened. I felt like I had nothing and nobody at this point, and I didn't want to continue. I was able to eventually find a mental health program that helped me learn how to carry on before it was too late, and I managed to find the

strength to build a new foundation on the rock bottom where I was stranded for years and lift myself out of the pit to begin anew.

But let me make it clear, in my situation, I'm one of the lucky ones - simply because I survived.

I grew up and lived the majority of my life in the Oakdale area in Minnesota. I went to Tartan High School in Oakdale as well, and I mention this because of the abnormally high number of students who have been diagnosed with some form of cancer while attending there. This is the same area where 3M's PFAS chemicals permeated the ground water and the surrounding environment. While there is no 100% guarantee that the PFAS chemicals are what gave me Leukemia, the same higher than normal rates of cancer in relation to PFAS chemical exposure are happening in Australia, too, next to another 3M plant. The evidence cannot be ignored any longer.

It is unacceptable to allow these forever chemicals to destroy not only our city, but our environment and our planet as well. If PFAS chemicals are even remotely to blame for my illness then I fear for the other people, families, and children living in the areas where they are at risk of exposure. Nobody deserves to go through what I did. We all deserve clean water and good health. We all deserve accurate information, and regulation over, and full disclosure about, the effects of PFAS chemicals that are being forced upon not only humanity but the flora and fauna that live in and make up our environment, as well.

3M has an eco-responsibility to address and remedy the PFAS chemical situation as well as protecting and preserving our planet. This is our only home, where we're all born and we all spend our lives trying to find happiness and meaning, and without any kind of intervention or accountability those ideals will only get harder and harder to achieve. Oakdale deserves better, 3M. So does Minnesota, so does America, so does Australia, and so does our planet.

To: To: To: MN House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
From: Greg Laden - laden.greg@gmail.com
RE: HF2096

Dear Legislators,

I live in Plymouth, Minnesota. I am responsible for a teenager, and I have a grown daughter and several other friends and relatives who all share the same odd trait: They drink water. In fact, they are made mainly of water, as are all humans. And, increasingly, our water is contaminated with potentially dangerous "forever chemicals."

PFAS and related compounds are the legacy of a past culture in industrial and regulatory America. Invent a chemical that a) has some marketable uses, b) produce and market it, as widely as possible, then c) later discover that the chemical has a serious negative environmental or health impact.

There is often yet another step: Let the government, aka, taxpayers, aka, those affected by the negative outcome of this commercial enterprise, pay to clean up the mess.

Don't get me wrong. I support the idea of taxpayer money going to important projects like cleaning up the environment. I believe in good government, and I believe the taxes buy us something important: civilization.

But, the main beneficiaries of PFAS production are not a nameless, faceless, unknown entity. They are corporate giants with deep pockets. Please hold them responsible.

I urge you to pass the Firefighting Foam Loophole Closure (SF776 / HF742).

Thank you,

Greg Laden
15300 37th Ave N Apt A124
Plymouth, MN, 55446

To: To: To: MN House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
From: Jefferey Munter
RE: HF2096

Good Afternoon Chairperson Stephenson and members of the committee.

My name is Jeff Munter, and I want to emphasize just how important these bills are in preventing the extensive damage I've seen they can do.

I come before you not as a scientist or a legal representative, but as an eyewitness to the fallout you've heard about from my good friend, Amara Strande.

From the first day myself and others at the Tartan High School Theater department found out one of our own had been diagnosed with cancer, we were scared and we were heartbroken. It was dark to know that someone with so much talent and light in their soul was about to face one of the most cruel diseases a human can endure. It was a lot to comprehend as young adults, and I couldn't imagine what it must've been like for her.

Time has since passed, and I still to this day can't comprehend how so much can be taken away from someone at such a young age. It's not easy visiting someone in the hospital late in the day when they should be at home getting frustrated with math homework. It's difficult to imagine that time she should've spent with butterflies in her stomach the week before a performance was replaced with the anxiety of a high risk surgery. Nothing can prepare you knowing your friend needs to endure things like that constantly.

It never gets easier to hear things like "I will die with this cancer" or "I don't have a lot of options left." The anger and the exhaustion from this goes beyond anything I can express or even come close to understanding, and this all began before she could start her own life. It's hard to know that this impacts every part of her world, preventing her from having the normal life someone like me often takes for granted.

Like most adults I find myself complaining about my jobs pretty often, not realizing the value of being able to work. I get frustrated getting stuck in traffic, which you're not usually able to experience if you can't drive. It's not fun to have to tackle an entire day when you're exhausted, so I can't imagine dealing with that all the time on chemo.

It's one thing to look from this perspective and think "Wow, that is sad," but it's unthinkable imagining yourself or your family in that position. I know how hard it is for her parents to have to see their daughter like this, what if my parents had to watch one of their children try to live with cancer? I know this takes a terrible toll on her sister, what if I had to watch my sister go through this? What about one of my cousins, an aunt or uncle, another one of my friends, someone who lives in my neighborhood, or anyone who gets exposed to needlessly risky chemicals?

As a lifelong Minnesotan, I feel fortunate to live in a state that prides itself on looking out for one another. I've often called it a statewide community. We're kind enough to open doors for people we don't even know, or help a neighbor when they're in need. Today my fellow Minnesota neighbors, I'm here to tell you that these bills are essential to looking out for each other.

If the usage of forever chemicals are allowed to continue throughout the state, more of us will have to endure the dark days you've heard Amara describe to you. Her nightmares are not the cost of doing business, but rather the absence of accountability. Although I appreciate promises to move away from these chemicals, I've seen too much to accept breathing room for negligence. Businesses will always be essential for the goods and services we need and thrive on, but nowhere in the business model is the motive to self regulate. The business model won't beholden to our State values, so it's up to us to hold them accountable. The time to act is now, and these bills will allow us to continue looking after one another, as Minnesotans do best.

I thank you for your time, and hope you consider this when making your final decision.

March 7, 2023

Representative Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Reducing Sources of PFAS (H.F. 2096)

Dear Chair Hansen,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

The Partnership supports measures to design waste, toxicity and pollution out of the marketplace in pursuit of a sustainable, circular economy. Focusing on upstream solutions are more efficient and effective than dealing with costs and impacts after products have been used and disposed.

The Partnership is very concerned about the persistent presence of PFAS in the state's land, water and other resources. We support initiatives to reduce sources of PFAS as a strategy to protect public health and minimize the potential for PFAS to appear in waste materials and facilities managing those materials. Efforts such as H.F. 2096 (Rep. Jordan) encourage re-examination of product design and transparency. This can minimize the use of ingredients that create problems for consumers, local governments and waste system operators and leave legacy costs that taxpayers are often forced to manage.

The Partnership appreciates the priority legislators place on mitigating the environmental and economic challenges posed by a range of problematic ingredients, including PFAS, and look forward to solutions that reduce PFAS in our environment and protect public health.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy committee members