



**American  
Forest & Paper  
Association**

February 24, 2020

The Honorable John Persell  
Chair, House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy  
The Minnesota House of Representatives  
200 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Letter on H.F. No. 3180**

Dear Representative John Persell:

On behalf of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), we appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with legislation under consideration by your Committee, H.F. No. 3180 "Food packaging chemical use regulated."

AF&PA is the national trade association for the forest products industry, representing pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturers, and forest landowners. Our companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources that sustain the environment. The forest products industry accounts for approximately four percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures nearly \$300 billion in products annually and employs approximately 950,000 men and women. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$55 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 45 states.

In Minnesota, the forest products industry employs over 24,000 individuals, with an annual payroll of over \$1.5 million and \$109 million in state and local taxes.

This bill seeks to ban all food packaging that contains any amount or type of intentionally added PFAS. AF&PA members are committed to ensuring the safety of their products, including the safety of chemicals used in their manufacturing processes. AF&PA believes that chemical and product-related legislation and regulations should be protective of health, cost-effective and based on the best available science. We support continued research on the safety of PFAS in our products.

We believe that states should avoid duplicative regulatory efforts. Chemicals in products and manufacturing by-products should be regulated at the federal, not the state level. It is essential that products moving in interstate commerce be subject to uniform standards.

The FDA has stated that it has "carefully reviewed the available science" on the short-chain compounds and has not identified any safety concerns. The FDA's careful study and approval of the use of short-chain PFAS chemicals based on the best available science allows for continued

production of safe and reliable food packaging.<sup>1</sup> On this basis, we believe FDA-regulated food packaging utilizing PFAS chemistry should be exempt from additional legislation or regulations. However, as HB 3180 is currently written, FDA approved PFAS in food packaging would also be banned. The Committee should realize the unintended consequences of enacting this bill. Specifically, the bill would have a significant impact on Minnesota's economy and population as it would penalize the sale of many food items consumed in the state.

We encourage the Committee to avoid measures that might penalize paper. We look forward to continuing our work with the state of Minnesota. Please feel free to contact Jordan Craig, Manager, Government and Industry Affairs, AF&PA at (202) 463-4751 or [jordan\\_craig@afandpa.org](mailto:jordan_craig@afandpa.org) for further information.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Bartheld  
Vice President, Government Affairs

cc:House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy

Representative Anne Claflin  
Representative Jamie Becker-Finn  
Representative Samantha Vang  
Representative Kelly Morrison  
Representative Peter Fischer  
Representative Frank Hornstein

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<sup>1</sup> Food packaging that complies with FDA regulation is safe for its intended use.