



March 25, 2025

Senator Catherine Blakespear, Chair
 Senate Environmental Quality Committee
 1021 O Street, Room 3230
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 682 (Allen) – Phasing out Unnecessary Uses of “Forever Chemicals” – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Blakespear and Members of the Committee:

The following organizations wish to express their strong support for SB 682, which provides a comprehensive, commonsense approach to phasing out unnecessary uses of the class of over 14,000 toxic, “forever” chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Specifically, SB 682 will prohibit the sale and distribution of products with avoidable uses of PFAS in California beginning January 1, 2033 or January 1, 2040 depending on the product type. A manufacturer can petition the Department of Toxic Substances Control for a time-limited exemption if it provides evidence that its use of PFAS is “currently unavoidable”. The bill establishes that the use of PFAS is “currently unavoidable” if 1) there is no reasonably available safer alternative to PFAS, 2) the function provided by PFAS is necessary for the product to work, and 3) the use of PFAS in the product is critical for the health, safety, or functioning of society.

We need strong regulation of PFAS because they are linked to serious health effects, including cancer, decreased fertility, hormone disruption, liver disease, developmental harm, and immune system suppression, including interference with the efficacy of vaccines. PFAS can cause health harms at extremely low exposures, with California and EPA warning of the potential for health harms for some PFAS below the parts per trillion range (the equivalent of one drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools).

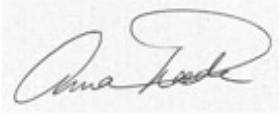
Because they do not break down readily, or transform into other persistent PFAS, these chemicals have become pervasive in the environment. Consequently, human exposures to PFAS occur through working in industrial settings, the use of products that contain the chemicals, and through the environment, including our food, water, and air, that is contaminated from the production, use, and disposal of PFAS-containing consumer and industrial products.

Virtually all U.S. residents have PFAS in their blood and, to date, the State Water Resources Control Board has detected 9 PFAS in drinking water systems serving tens of millions of Californians. This number is expected to rise as testing expands. Moreover, PFAS will continue to accumulate in the environment unless we reduce use, undermining our efforts to clean up drinking water. Given the recent federal regulation of PFAS in drinking water, water systems and ratepayers are facing a tremendous treatment cost burden, adding more impetus to the need to stop PFAS pollution at the source by restricting their use.

Both the health and cost burdens caused by PFAS contamination also have serious environmental justice implications. Analysis of state monitoring results demonstrate that drinking water contamination is more prevalent in state-identified disadvantaged communities. In addition, the largely tribal communities and low-income communities of color who practice subsistence fishing in heavily PFAS-contaminated waters such as San Francisco Bay are at particular risk.

While, over the years, California has made good progress in limiting PFAS in specific product categories, we’ve only addressed the tip of the iceberg. Furthermore, we cannot simply treat our way out of the state’s PFAS crisis given the chemicals’ resistance to destruction and the extreme costs associated with current treatment options. For this reason, SB 682 is essential in preventing further PFAS contamination of our people and of our precious resources. The costs, both financial and for health and safety, are very large and call for strong, comprehensive action. AB 682 is bold but pragmatic, phasing out unnecessary uses while allowing for necessary uses to continue by providing for extensions when the use of PFAS in products is currently unavoidable. Given this balanced approach, we are proud to support this important bill.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anna Reade
Senior Scientist, Director PFAS Advocacy
NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council)



Scott Faber
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group



Jessica Gauger
Director of Legislative Advocacy and
Public Affairs
California Association of Sanitation Agencies



Joanne Brasch
Director of Advocacy
California Product Stewardship Council



Krystal Raynes
Legislative Associate
Californians Against Waste



Marven Norman
Environmental Policy Analyst
Center for Community Action and Environmental
Justice (CCA EJ)



Nancy Buermeyer
Director of Program & Policy
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners



Andria Ventura
Legislative and Policy Director
Clean Water Action



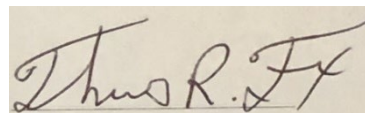
Tomas Valadez
CA Policy Manager
Azul



Robina Suwol
Executive Director
California Safe Schools



Jenn Engstrom
State Director
CALPIRG



Thomas R. Fox
Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Environmental Health



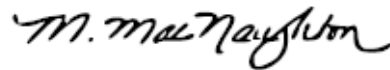
Lenny Siegel
Executive Director
Center for Public Environmental Oversight



Bill Magavern
Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air



Abraham Mendoza III
Policy Manager
Community Water Center



Melinda MacNaughton
Co-founder
El Granada Advocates



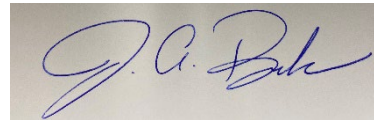
Katelyn Roedner Sutter
California State Director
Environmental Defense Fund



Erin Brockovich
Founder
Erin Brockovich Foundation



Catherine Dodd PhD RN
Health Advisor
FACTS Families Advocating for Chemical And
Toxics Safety



Jill Buck
Founder and CEO
Go Green Initiative



Arlene Blum
Executive Director
Green Science Policy Institute



Robert Bowcock
Managing Director
Integrated Resource Management, Inc.



Michael Claiborne
Directing Attorney
Leadership Counsel Action



Maura Monagan
Policy & Government Affairs Manager
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council

Kim Konte
Founder
Non-Toxic Neighborhoods

Gopal Shanker
President
Récolte Energy

Chance Cutrano
Director of Programs
Resource Renewal Institute

Alicia Culver
Executive Director
Responsible Purchasing Network

Julie Wedge
California ReThink Disposable Program Director
ReThink Disposable

Robert M. Gould, MD
President
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social
Responsibility

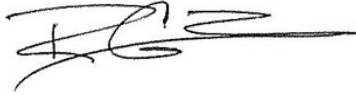
Ben Eichenberg
Staff Attorney
San Francisco Baykeeper

David Lewis
Executive Director
Save The Bay

Jack Eidt
Co-Founder
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Miriam Gordon
Reuse Program Director
Story of Stuff

Michael Rincon
Director of Policy & Research
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles



Ryan G Spencer
Legislative Advocate
American College of OB-GYN's District IX



Gabriela Facio
Senior Policy Strategist
Sierra Club California

cc: Senator Benjamin Allen