



March 15, 2022

Assembly Member Bill Quirk
Submitted via Position Letter Portal

RE: AB 1817 (TING) – Safer Clothes & Textiles Act of 2022 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Quirk:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, as part of the 13 members making up the Statewide Textile Recovery Advisory Committee hosted by the California Product Stewardship Council, we support AB 1817, phasing out toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in clothes and textiles sold in California.

California has a history of policies on toxics and harm reduction, such as chemical bans or microplastic laws, which require evidence supported by advocacy from topic experts. Studies have shown that Perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) commonly discharged from textiles and carpet can lead to adverse health impact to humans and has been detected in drinking water, human blood, and feces. PFAS have been linked to severe health problems, including but not limited to breast and other cancers, hormone disruption, kidney and liver damage, thyroid disease, harm to developing infants and children, and immune system disruption.

Banning use of toxics in textiles and garments aligns with other state and federal actions and prevents harmful chemical from re-circulating. The State of Maine banned non-essential use of PFAS in 2021. The California legislature recognized the need to regulate PFAS as a class when it passed SB 1044 (Allen, 2020), AB 1200 (Ting, 2021), and AB 652 (Friedman, 2021) to prohibit their use in firefighting foam, paper-based food packaging, and children's products, respectively. The Department of Toxic Substance Control's Safer Consumer Products Program has done an extensive review of PFAS chemicals and made a convincing case for treating PFAS as an entire chemical class.

Recognizing the health and environmental concerns about PFAS in textiles, many leading companies, like Levi's, Gap, H&M, Keen, Osprey, Patagonia, Ikea, and Zara, have either eliminated or made commitments to eliminate PFAS from their products. It's time to require the rest of the industry to phase out this unnecessary use of PFAS, just as California has required the elimination of PFAS in paper-based food packaging, children's products, and fire-fighting foam, to protect our health, drinking water, and environment.

AB 1817 helps address the PFAS problem and makes the clothes and textiles that come into our homes and workplaces safer for our health and the environment by phasing out the use of PFAS in these products.

For these reasons, we support AB 1817 and appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council



Nikki Eclarinal
Policy Manager, Fashion Revolution USA



Heather Podoll
Partnership and Advocacy Coordinator, Fibershed



Colleen Foster, Environmental Officer
City of Oceanside Water Utilities Department