

Virginia House of Delegates
Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee
Subcommittee #1

submitted electronically

Dear Subcommittee Members:

I am writing to express the Southern Environmental Law Center's support for HB1011 (Guzman), which convenes a workgroup to continue the study of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—or PFAS—in Virginia's public drinking water.

PFAS are a family of thousands of man-made chemicals that are frequently used because of their fire-resistant and water- and oil-resistant qualities. Unfortunately, these chemicals are also toxic and persistent. They bioaccumulate in the human body and have been linked to harmful health impacts.

Drinking water consumption is one way communities are exposed to PFAS, and these chemicals have already been found in Virginia's public drinking water. A previous workgroup authorized by the General Assembly found reportable levels of PFAS in 15 drinking water samples in the state. This initial study was extremely limited, however, and it only allowed for testing at 45 of Virginia's more than 2,800 public waterworks due to legislative, budgetary, and time constraints.

HB1011's workgroup will build off of the groundwork laid by the previous workgroup. It will prioritize further PFAS testing of public drinking water based on recommendations from the initial study, including at small waterworks, rural waterworks, waterworks near potential sources of PFAS contamination, and waterworks where PFAS were found in the first round of testing. Importantly, increased PFAS testing can help Virginia assess and mitigate the risks of PFAS contamination in drinking water, and this information will help to protect public health while we work to stop PFAS pollution from entering our waters in the first place.

We hope you will support this bill.

Thank you,



Carroll Courtenay
Staff Attorney