



# PROTECTING IL COMMUNITIES FROM TOXIC PFAS CONTAMINATION

SUPPORT SEN. LAURA ELLMAN'S SB 561



## "FOREVER CHEMICALS"

PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals,” don’t break down easily, which causes them to build up in our environment and in our bodies. What makes them useful and durable is also what makes them a problem.

## WHAT ARE PFAS?

- Per-and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), are a large group of toxic man-made chemicals used in everyday products like waterproof apparel & carpet, nonstick food ware, food wrappers and fire fighting foam. They’re unique in their ability to repel oil and water, reduce friction and are flame retardant.

## WHERE ARE PFAS?

- The D.C.-based Environmental Working Group has found PFAS contamination of drinking water or groundwater in 49 states.
- Including 9 sites of contamination in IL: Freeport, Galesburg, Belvidere, Peoria, Bloomington, Springfield, Rantoul, St. Clair County and Rock Island.
- Most are near military sites and airports that use PFOS-containing fire fighting foam. Manufacturing plants, industrial landfills and wastewater treatment plants that process industrial water are also major sources of contamination.

## SB 561 PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC.

Nearly every American has PFAS in their blood due to exposure from contaminated drinking water, soil, food packaging, consumer products, manufacturing processes and even through the air. Studies have linked prolonged PFAS exposure to cancer, diabetes, thyroid disorders, decreased fertility and elevated cholesterol.

## OTHER STATES ARE NOT WAITING TO ACT.

They are taking the lead to reduce and eliminate PFAS use, clean up contamination and hold polluters accountable. Several states including Michigan, Colorado, Washington, Maine and New York have proposed or adopted bans or restrictions on PFAS-containing firefighting foam.

## WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

SB 561 takes action to protect our water and public health from firefighting foam and other materials containing PFAS.

- Phases out the use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam
- Bans the sale of PFAS-containing firefighting foam after January 2025
- Requires fire departments to report use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam to IEPA
- Requires the State Fire Marshal to conduct a survey of fire departments’ use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam