

March 14, 2024



The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chair
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of the Port Seattle and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), I am writing today to fully support efforts to grant CERCLA liability exemptions for federally mandated users – particularly airports, for whom federally-mandated PFAS usage is the result of providing services for the public good.

The Port of Seattle – a special purpose government entity managing a wide variety of aviation and maritime facilities on behalf of the residents of King County, Washington – owns and operates SEA. The Port has set a goal to be the most environmentally friendly and energy-efficient port in North America, including our efforts to transition away from PFAS-containing firefighting foam (AFFF). In fact, SEA has set a goal to be one of the first airports in this transition, and has spent years preparing to not only purchase vehicle cleaning technologies and fluorine-free foam but also to train our firefighters on the use of these products.

Yet, despite our desire to transition sooner, the FAA has required airports like ours to use AFFF containing PFAS for decades. And so, we strongly support the position that airports should not bear liability for the use of these chemicals in good faith to keep the travelling public safe. As the EPA continues its process of designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Part 139 airports should be granted a liability exemption, as proposed in S. 1433, the Airport PFAS Liability Protection Act.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please let us know if we can provide any additional information about our airport or our PFAS-transition efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lance Lyttle", enclosed within a blue circular scribble.

Lance Lyttle
Aviation Managing Director
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport