



March 15, 2024

Senator Tom Carper, Chair
Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Comments on Draft PFAS Legislation

Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito: The City of Eugene respectfully submits comments in regard to the current discussion on legislation related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) rules. The City of Eugene provides a broad set of services to our community including the operation of our regional commercial service airport.

While the draft legislation is a good start and advances several city priorities around the detection, reduction, destruction, and remediation of PFAS, it does not include liability protection for local governments. As you know, local governments like the City of Eugene that operate airports were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals. Such routine municipal operations should not create legal peril for local governments, and it would be inequitable to require local communities to pay for the costs of PFAS contamination. Local government liability protection is essential to ensure a “polluter pays” model and is necessary to avoid shifting the financial burden of remediating PFAS onto the community and taxpayers. **Therefore, the City of Eugene respectfully requests that the Senate EPW Committee amend the current proposed legislation to include liability protections for local governments.**

Thank you for your efforts in addressing this important issue for US communities. I look forward to seeing the EPW Committee address these critical components to support local governments.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lucy Vinis