



Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

January 18th, 2022

To: House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
From: Nadia Alsadi, Water Policy Associate, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Re: HF 836 - Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT)

Members of the Committee:

MCEA, a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment, expresses concern over the growing issue of PFAS and landfills and thanks the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony in relation to HF 836.

- PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), otherwise known as “Forever Chemicals,” have been produced and disposed of for decades. These synthetic chemicals enter the human body and cause a battery of serious health complications. Despite the known risks to human health and the environment, little has been done to address this problem and health hazard.
- PFAS are extremely soluble and mobile in the environment (within soils and water) and enter the human body through multiple pathways, including through contaminated drinking water. Ingesting PFAS has been linked to reproductive issues, developmental delays in children and infants, and increased risk of cancers ([EPA](#))
- PFAS are commonly found in the soil and groundwater near landfills and other disposal sites. The MPCA recently tested 101 closed landfills and found PFAS compounds in 98 of these sites. PFAS is prevalent throughout these disposal sites and pose a serious risk of contamination through leaching to groundwater. ([MPCA - PFAS in Landfills](#))
- Communities that are located near these sites, including Burnsville Sanitary Landfill and Pig's Eye Dump, are at an increased risk of PFAS exposure, pollution, and associated health risks.

MINNESOTANS DESERVE A STRONG RESPONSE TO PFAS CONTAMINATION

- Communities near landfills suffer greater risk from PFAS contamination. Once an area is contaminated with PFAS, remediation is oftentimes extremely difficult, expensive, or impossible.
- A lack of information about which areas are at high risk of PFAS contamination, including landfills, is detrimental to public health and adds risk to sensitive populations, like mothers, pregnant women, infants, and small children. Transparent communication of PFAS contamination within these communities is essential to protecting public health.



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- Regulating the safe disposal of PFAS, monitoring of contaminated sites, and transparent communication to impacted communities requires immediate legislative action to protect all Minnesotans and the health of the environment.

MCEA applauds the Committee's efforts to address this growing problem. We encourage the committee to swiftly address this growing issue for the protection of Minnesotans and our natural resources.

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