
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Muzzall, Rolfes, Billig, Holy, Lovelett, Mullet, Salomon, and Warnick

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1 TO THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, THE SECRETARY OF THE
2 UNITED STATES NAVY, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, THE
3 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,
4 THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE
5 WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT, AND THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF NAVAL
6 AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
9 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, Washington state is grateful to all of the members of
11 our nation's armed services; and

12 WHEREAS, Washington state welcomes and appreciates the Navy and
13 Air Force as honored community partners who contribute to the
14 economic vitality of our state, including in the communities near
15 Naval Air Station Whidbey Island; and

16 WHEREAS, Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS,
17 may be linked to health problems in people and animals, remain in the
18 environment for an extended period of time without breaking down, and
19 build up in people and the environment; and

20 WHEREAS, PFAS firefighting foams have been used since the 1970s
21 for vapor suppression, firefighting, and firefighting training at

1 facilities handling large volumes of flammable liquid petroleum or
2 natural gas; and

3 WHEREAS, PFAS contamination related to firefighting foam use has
4 been found at or near military sites in Washington state, including
5 training sites at Ault Field in Oak Harbor and Naval Air Station
6 Whidbey Island Area 6; and

7 WHEREAS, Known cases of PFAS contamination in surface water and
8 groundwater in Washington state are linked to the use of firefighting
9 foam; and

10 WHEREAS, Much of the known contamination in Washington state was
11 found through testing by the Department of Defense on and near
12 military bases in our state; and

13 WHEREAS, PFAS contamination above the United States Environmental
14 Protection Agency's health advisory level has been found in drinking
15 water wells near Ault Field, Oak Harbor, the outlying field in
16 Coupeville, and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Area 6; and

17 WHEREAS, There are significant concerns about PFAS contamination
18 in sediment and surface waters that support family farms and flow
19 into Dugwalla Bay; and

20 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense is conducting research on
21 PFAS-containing firefighting foams, including replacement products,
22 environmental risk, and treatment technology; and

23 WHEREAS, It may cost hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars
24 and require significant time and effort to mitigate PFAS
25 contamination in surface water and groundwater sources; and

26 WHEREAS, To address PFAS contamination in an effective manner
27 will require cooperation among different levels of government, the
28 public and private sectors, and a variety of other stakeholders; and

29 WHEREAS, At this time, the legislature concludes that
30 coordination among the affected parties, landowners, the state, local
31 governments, and the federal government will lead to better solutions
32 than imposing regulatory restrictions in the absence of sufficient
33 data;

34 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
35 Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, the Department of
36 the Air Force, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the
37 United States Department of Agriculture, and the Washington Military
38 Department assist state and local governments in Washington with

1 monitoring and mitigating PFAS contamination of surface water and
2 groundwater.

3 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
4 transmitted to the United States Secretary of Defense, the Secretary
5 of the United States Navy, the Secretary of the United States Air
6 Force, the Administrator of the United States Environmental
7 Protection Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, the
8 Director of the Washington Military Department, and the commanding
9 officer of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

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