

Help communities and businesses prevent PFAS contamination

Challenge

PFAS have been used in a wide array of consumer and industrial products since the 1940s. These chemicals do not easily break down, resulting in a relatively permanent reservoir that has lasting impacts on human health and the environment. The most extensively studied PFAS chemicals are perfluorooctonate sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). They are known to negatively impact human health and increase risks of developing cancer. These two chemicals have been phased out by major manufacturers in the United States but remain present in industrial and commercial products as well as our waste.



Proposal

Governor Walz requests a \$2 million General Fund appropriation to establish a PFAS community grant program. Grants would provide funding for public or private entities to engage in projects designed to prevent PFAS pollution. These funds could target efforts that remove and replace PFAS-containing firefighting foams; offset costs for PFAS monitoring at “conduits” into the environment; and support PFAS pollution prevention.

Why it's important

Reducing PFAS exposure in our communities is a state and federal priority. In February 2021, the state published the Minnesota PFAS Blueprint that lays out several strategies and possible initiatives to address the proliferation of PFAS in the environment. However, actions to identify PFAS contamination, install PFAS treatment systems, replace PFAS products with safer alternatives, and properly dispose of PFAS-containing materials are all expensive. Many private and public entities are motivated to do their part to reduce exposures to these harmful chemicals but have limited financial resources to do so.

For more information

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