

SUB 1 TO 2021 RES-116  
IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE CLEAR ACT ADDRESSING PFAS CONTAMINATION

In April 2021, The CLEAR Act, was introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature. Wisconsin's Chemical Level Enforcement and Remediation (CLEAR) Act would begin to address contamination from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS is a class of human-made chemicals that are not currently regulated by state code.

The PFAS family of chemicals was first introduced in the 1940s and their use had become widespread until recently when more information had been learned about their health effects. PFAS is introduced into our environment from many products and from manufacturers' and others' discharge of the chemical. Products in our society that contain PFAS include dental floss, non-stick cookware, water-resistant clothing, many types of food packaging, cleaning products, biodegradable paper drinking straws, paints, polishes, waxes, grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, candy wrappers, stain repellents, stain-resistant upholstery and carpeting, firefighting foams, and many other products. Products with PFAS continue to be produced in other countries. These compounds do not change or break down easily, and as a result, are found throughout our environment in our homes and bodies. In recent years, experts have become increasingly concerned about the potential effects these chemicals can have on human health. Sources of PFAS exposure are wide and varied.

Throughout our world and including in the City of Madison, Dane County, and our state, PFAS contamination has been detected in soil, municipal wells, surface water and groundwater.

The CLEAR Act, would begin to address statewide PFAS contamination. The provisions in the bill include funding new positions at the WI Department of Natural Resources specific to the implementation of a PFAS action plan, creating the PFAS municipal grant program for testing and remediation efforts by local governments, funding statewide monitoring and testing initiatives, collecting and disposing of PFAS contaminated firefighting foam, and establishing and enforcing environmental standards for PFAS. Passage of The CLEAR Act would provide the county access to additional resources to address PFAS contamination including science-based remediation standards.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board supports passage of the CLEAR Act in addressing PFAS contamination throughout the state and Dane County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports labeling the family of PFAS as hazardous chemicals which could provide opportunities for additional funding and further action on remediation and mitigation of PFAS in our county and state.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the State Senators and Representatives serving Dane County in the State Legislature, Governor Tony Evers, U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, and U.S. Representative Mark Pocan.