



May 3, 2022

The Honorable Philip Ting  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1817: Product safety: textile articles: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - **SUPPORT AND AMEND**

Assembly Floor – Third Reading

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am pleased express our support for your Assembly Bill 1817 that prohibits the sale of any textile articles that contain regulated perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) as of January 1, 2024, in California, and requires a manufacturer to use the least toxic alternative when removing PFAS in textile articles.

The issue of PFAS in drinking water supplies is of growing concern in southern California - including to many of Metropolitan's member agencies and other retail water and groundwater management agencies within our region. Hundreds of groundwater wells in southern California are currently under scrutiny for PFAS contamination with the full extent of the problem still evolving. Some water agencies have detected two PFAS - perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate acid (PFOS) - above notification and response levels which has led these agencies to remove impacted water supplies from service or invest in costly treatment.

PFAS can enter source waters through landfills, treated wastewater discharge, or where chemicals were used in manufacturing or for industrial uses. Because PFAS do not break down and are resilient, they can accumulate and lead to elevated levels in groundwater near those sites. State and federal regulatory actions for PFAS continue to progress, moving towards strict standards to ensure public health protection. Metropolitan is supportive of measures that help reduce and/or control the introduction of PFAS into the environment.

Source control is a critical component to minimize the public's exposure to PFAS. While many companies are voluntarily phasing out certain PFAS in the United States, these compounds are still being manufactured outside of the country and are imported to the United States. We are encouraged that the proposed bill would curtail the sale of products containing PFAS - reducing a key source of PFAS and, in turn, helping to ensure protection of the environment and the public's drinking water supply

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Metropolitan appreciates your leadership on this important issue. We have communicated with your staff that we would like to work with them on some minor technical fixes to language in the bill in order to avoid confusion regarding the use of the term “regulated PFAS” and the definition of PFAS as it applies to textiles.

Assembly Bill 1817 takes a critical step towards protecting public health and California’s drinking water supplies from PFAS contamination. If you have any questions or wish to discuss Metropolitan’s position further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 650-2614.

Sincerely,



Kathryn C. Viatella  
Executive Legislative Representative

cc: Maria Morales, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Ting