

Beth Enson

I am writing in support of the PFAS Firefighting Foam Bill rulemaking and urge you to write this into New Mexico law. I have been devastated to learn that the groundwater sustaining the communities- human, animal and plant- in the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire area has been permanently poisoned by the foaming chemicals used to extinguish the fire. Now the people whose ancestral lands were consumed by catastrophic wildfire can no longer drink the water from their wells and community water systems. This is a tragedy of Biblical proportions. As human beings we choose convenient and easy solutions to our problems. But when these solutions cause more severe problems in the long run, we must become more discerning in our actions. I can't BELIEVE that the same toxic PFAS chemicals I am stringently avoiding in my food can liners, personal care products and clothing are being sprayed in massive amounts on our landscapes without a thought to long term hazards. I'm certain there must be alternatives, and I'm certain they are more expensive and/or difficult to manage. Or equally plausible in our current corporate-dictated culture, the PFAS industry has successfully lobbied for the use of its product despite the dire health hazards it poses. Please use your power to protect my health and the health of my family, community, and more-than-human community of plants and animals. Forbid any further use of AFFF/PFAS chemicals to fight wildfires. These forever chemicals are highly poisonous and have no place in our state, our economy or our planet. Find an alternative, and prioritize the state's sustainable energy goals to reduce the likelihood of further catastrophic wildfires due to climate change and prolonged drought. Thank you for your attention.