

Wendy Volkmann

## Public Comment on HJM 3 and PFAS Protection Act Exemptions

Submitted August 30, 2026

As a citizen of New Mexico, I am concerned about PFAS in our environment because they are harmful to people, especially children, and all living things in our beautiful state.

A “protection” law that postpones major prohibitions until 2032, exempts entire categories of PFAS products, and fails to provide comprehensive testing for already-exposed communities puts all of us in grave danger.

HJM 3 confirms that the exemptions are based on limited science. The exemption for fluoropolymer is a major loophole. Reporting and labeling don’t qualify as prevention. People already exposed aren’t adequately addressed by the law. Industrial uses and military uses are a dangerous blind spot.

NMED’s report to the Legislature should recommend:

- Removal or substantial narrowing of the fluoropolymer exemption.
- Regulation of PFAS as a chemical class—not through a slow, one-compound-at-a-time process.
- Faster phaseout deadlines where safer alternatives already exist.
- Mandatory reporting and labeling for exempt products.
- Public disclosure of every exemption and “currently unavoidable use” application.
- Independent scientific review rather than reliance on manufacturer-selected evidence.
- Time-limited exemptions subject to regular reconsideration.
- Full life-cycle assessment covering production, use, fires, accidents, disposal and environmental degradation.
- Expansion of PFAS blood testing and medical monitoring to all communities with documented or reasonably suspected exposure.
- Stronger protections governing military installations, defense contractors, airports, firefighting systems, wastewater discharges, sewage sludge and high-hazard industrial facilities.
- Polluter-funded monitoring, treatment and cleanup rather than transferring those costs to residents and taxpayers.

Do not wait until another community’s samples of human blood, well water, and wildlife show the consequences of exemptions adopted before their risks were clearly understood.

It is much more difficult to remove PFAS from land, water, and people, than it is to prevent contamination. So let’s engage in prevention, not crisis management after contamination.

Real PFAS protection, and a strong law, must prevent exposure, test affected people, and hold polluters accountable. Anything less is not protection. It’s just managed contamination.

Please confirm my comments have been included in the official HJM 3 record.

Sincerely,

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