



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

EDWARD A. KELLY
General Secretary-Treasurer

July 11, 2019

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the nation's 316,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel, I urge you to support the Dingell/Kildee amendment #537 to HR 2500, the National Defense Authorization Act.

The Dingell/Kildee Amendment would require the Environmental Protection Agency to list Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) chemicals as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act within one year. This important amendment will direct federal resources to clean up contaminated sites and limit the spread of these toxic chemicals, protecting the lives and health of fire fighters, military families, and others.

For more than five decades, the Department of Defense and the Federal Aviation Administration have required fire fighters to utilize a formulation of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) containing PFAS to combat fires involving flammable liquids at military and commercial airports. Once considered to be safe, AFFF containing PFAS has been designated by the EPA to be environmentally hazardous since the 1990s. Over time epidemiologists have linked PFAS, which bioaccumulates in the body, to several health issues including thyroid, kidney and bladder cancers, diabetes, and elevated cholesterol. Occurrences of cancer within the fire service have rapidly become the leading cause of death among fire fighters. As a nation, we must take the necessary steps to protect the health of our fire fighters.

Again, we urge you to vote YES on the Dingell / Kildee amendment and thank you for your support of America's professional fire fighters and emergency medical responders.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President