



Memorandum of Support

June 5, 2019

A.4739-A (Fahy)/S.2000-A (Hoylman)

Title: An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in food packaging.

Purpose: Relates to the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in food packaging.

Statement of Support: An alarming report out of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was leaked earlier this week, finding high amounts of PFAS chemicals in milk, meat, produce and even a store-made chocolate cake, all sold in the U.S. PFAS chemicals have been linked to numerous health factors, including low infant birth weight, cancers (kidney and testicular), decreased sperm quality, and thyroid hormone disruption and disease.

A.4739-A/S.2000-A would ban the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAS) in food packaging. Additionally, the bill would also require manufacturers to certify that their packaging does not contain these PFAS chemicals.

Phasing out harmful and unnecessary chemicals, such as PFAS food packaging products, will have a lasting effect on the health of New Yorkers and the environment. These chemicals have a way of finding their way into the environment, be it through the air, water, or when these products are eventually thrown away, ending up in the landfill. Additionally, PFAS chemicals do not break down in the human body, nor do they break down in the environment, meaning they remain and accumulate for years to come.

Sierra Club is devoted to protecting public health and the environment by decreasing exposure to hazardous substances through reducing toxic chemicals in consumer products and in educating consumers about the potential risks of hazardous substances such as endocrine disruptors, formaldehyde, lead, mercury, and other persistent toxins that often end up in our air, water, and natural places. A.4739-A/S.2000-A would help limit yet another pathway of PFAS exposure for New Yorkers.

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Strongly Urges Your Support of A.4739-A/S.2000-A