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Morrill
LD 222

My name is Lee Pellecchia, and I write to you as someone who has witnessed, firsthand, the slow unraveling of a community burdened by PFAS contamination. We often think of environmental degradation as something distant - melting ice caps, oil spills in far-off oceans - but here, it is woven into the land beneath our feet, the water we drink, and the food we grow. It is not an abstraction; it is our lived reality.

As a volunteer firefighter, I have trained with the very foam that now threatens the health of my neighbors. At the time, it felt like progress - technology designed to save lives. But in our effort to control one danger, we unknowingly unleashed another, one that seeps into wells and lingers in bodies long after the flames have been extinguished. Without a safe means of disposal, these toxic foams remain a silent and insidious threat.

LD 222 is not merely a policy proposal; it is a moral imperative. To allow these chemicals to persist, uncontained and unregulated, is to accept the poisoning of our land and our people as an unfortunate byproduct of modernity. We have an opportunity to choose stewardship over neglect and responsibility over convenience. Establishing a take-back and disposal program is a critical step toward protecting not just the firefighters who risk their lives in service, but the farmers, the families, and the future generations who deserve to inherit a land untainted by mistakes.

I urge you to support LD 222, not just as lawmakers, but as stewards of this state and its people. Thank you.