Main Testimony

Thank you to the members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Randy Krause, and I serve as the Fire Chief for the Port of Seattle providing service to Sea-Tac International Airport. I am here to share my support for the bill before you, and to thank Committee Chairs Senator Brenner and Representative Tucker and sponsoring Representative Gramlich for their leadership.

At the Port of Seattle, we have been actively involved with the industry to find a solution and are working with our partners at the Federal Aviation Administration to encourage the implementation of new fluorine-free firefighting foam.

While federal law currently requires the use of firefighting foam that includes PFAS chemicals, our airport director Lance Lyttle sent the FAA a letter in 2018 urging the FAA to aggressively pursue a fluorine-free option.

The 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act passed by Congress requires the evaluation and implementation of fluorine-free foam by the end of 2021.

Many of my peers at airports across the globe have already made the change to fluorine free foam and I personally have witnessed fluorine free foam used with great success and am confident the FAA will find a suitable alternative within the deadline.

We recognize that there is concern in the firefighting industry with the FAA meeting its 2021 deadline.

I, however, am confident the FAA will reach a solution and I am looking forward to being one if not the first airport in the United States to go fluorine free.

We do understand these types of bills have differing effects on various industries. It appears you have addressed some of the concerns we had in Washington state with this bill and we are happy to work with and help the sponsors as this moves forward.

Thank you, and with that I am happy to answer any questions.