

HB 328 Proponent Testimony
House Commerce & Labor Committee
November 20, 2019

Chairwoman Manning and members of the Commerce & Labor Committee, my name is Mitch Hubert and I am a Technology Fellow at Perimeter Solutions. My company is a member of the Fire Fighting Foam Coalition (FFFC), which is a non-profit trade association formed in 2001 to focus on issues related to the efficacy and environmental impact of firefighting foams. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 328 (HB 328).

I have degrees in both chemistry and biology and have been formulating firefighting foams since 1978. Perimeter Solutions manufactures both fluorinated and non-fluorinated foams used in controlling and extinguishing Class B flammable liquid fires. In fact, our non-fluorinated products are some of the best in the industry and have the only UL and FM safety standard listings for approved use in overhead sprinkler systems, like those found in warehouses and aircraft hangars.

While fluorine-free foams can be used as an alternative to fluorinated foams in some instances, they are not currently able to provide the same level of fire suppression, nor do they possess the same scope of usage. Accordingly, HB 328 will still rightly allow firefighters and other first responders to have access to the tools necessary to combat Class B flammable liquid fires.

In short, HB 328 will ensure a minimized release of firefighting foams containing PFAS during training and testing but will continue to make fluorinated foams available for use in extinguishing live Class B flammable liquid fires, which is vital to protecting the life and property of Ohioans. The intent of this bill is in line with FFFC recommended practices and is a proactive approach in which to address this important issue.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this brief written statement and welcome any technical questions that members of the committee may have at this time.