



**To: Members of the Michigan House Natural Resources Committee**  
**From: Nicholas Occhipinti, Government Affairs Director Michigan League of Conservation Voters**  
**Date: January 31, 2018**  
**Re: HB 4389 (Allor), HB 4390 (Yaroch) & HB 4391 (Yaroch); neutral**

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The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) is the non-partisan, political voice for Michigan's land, air, and water. Michigan LCV reserves the right to score a vote on HB 5752 and 5753 on our Legislative Scorecard.

MLCV is currently neutral on the three pieces of legislation, but we appreciate the bill sponsor's intent, and thank them for working with us on the legislation

**1. The definition of PFAS**

(E) "PFAS CHEMICALS" MEANS A CLASS OF FLUORINATED ORGANIC CHEMICALS CONTAINING AT LEAST 1 FULLY FLUORINATED CARBON ATOM ~~AND DESIGNED TO BE FULLY FUNCTIONAL IN FIREFIGHTING FOAM FORMULATIONS.~~

**2. HB 4389 Takeback program - Avoid regrettable substitution, confusion in the field**

Sec. 14705 Line 4 strike "PFAS CHEMICALS WITH A CARBON CHAIN OF MORE THAN 6"

We don't want to limit the bills to long chain PFAS. As the science emerges we are concerned that short chain PFAS compounds will prove dangerous to public health, and want to avoid replacing one problem product for another

**3. Research Appropriate Disposal to break the PFAS Cycle**

Sec. 14705 THE DEPARTMENT ...."PROPERLY DISPOSE OF THE FOAM CONCENTRATE"

Because of the longevity and mobility of PFAS chemicals, expert testimony has described a PFAS cycle where there's a danger of simply moving the problem around. Already we have reports documenting PFAS pouring from landfill leachate

Landfills → wastewater treatment → Michigan's rivers and lakes

Landfills → wastewater treatment → biosolid land application

Type 1 hazardous waste facility - take up room, very expensive, break down the compounds in safe and environmentally friendly way; The state need to engage in this research

We need to cut off the source; Break the cycle Research on how to break this

**4. HB 4389 transparency** - strongly support the reporting provisions and would like to see a requirement that the DEQ post details of the incident, complete with the cleanup process and any required remediation activities

**5. Aggressively pursue emerging alternatives** - ultimately we need to move towards the elimination of fire fighting foams bearing PFAS compounds. Expert testimony on the state of the other products out there.

Encourage the sponsors to keep researching these alternatives and work with fire departments, first responders and other 3rd party verifiers, and to evaluate their efficacy

**6. Positive step forward - one small piece of the pie**

We need to double down on remediation efforts, epidemiological research (Oscoda area), support the PFAS rulemaking process

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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