

# City of Palo Alto

*Office of the Mayor and City Council*

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Tom Umberg  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 6350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 903 (Skinner) Environmental health: product safety: PFAS  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Umberg,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of SB 903 (Skinner), which prevents the sale and use of products containing per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances —commonly known as “PFAS” — unless the use of PFAS in the product is necessary and there is not a safer alternative available.

PFAS are a class of human-made fluorinated organic chemicals that share one common trait – highly stable carbon-fluorine bonds that make them or their final degradation products extremely persistent in the environment. PFAS have been used extensively for decades in surface coating and protectant formulations for their unique ability to reduce the surface tension of liquids, including in consumer products designed to be waterproof or water-resistant, grease and stain-resistant, or non-stick. During production, use, and disposal, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air.

The entire class of PFAS chemicals has been recognized as chemicals of concern by a wide array of scientific experts at both the state and federal levels. Federal regulation of plastic products is woefully inadequate, allowing the use of hazardous chemicals in a variety of products. As a result of this failure, people and the environment are exposed to hazardous chemicals when these products are manufactured, used, and thrown away.

SB 903 is a commonsense measure that seeks to protect the public and the environment from exposure to toxic “forever” chemicals by establishing a regulatory framework for discerning between necessary and unnecessary PFAS use across a wide range of common products. Further, this process will ban and phase out the use of these chemicals to protect current and future generations.

The City of Palo Alto applauds the Senator’s work on this measure. We encourage the Senate Judiciary Committee to advance SB 903 through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Greer Stone  
Mayor, City of Palo Alto