



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

BAN ON PFAS IN ANTIFOGGING SPRAYS AND WIPES

A.5363 – GALLAGHER

S.992 – HOYLMAN-SIGAL

Description: Bans PFAS in antifogging sprays and wipes beginning in 2024

Justification

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products for many decades, due to their non-stick, grease-resistant and waterproof properties. PFAS is used in textile articles, rugs, fabric treatments, cookware, ski waxes, architectural paints, cleaning products, antifogging sprays and wipes, and many other products.

PFAS are referred to as “forever chemicals” because they are very persistent, meaning they build up in our bodies and don’t break down in the environment. Due to widespread use of PFAS chemicals in numerous products and industries, PFAS chemicals have become ubiquitous in the environment, including our soil, air, and drinking water. Testing has revealed PFAS in water sources in communities across New York State.

Studies show that human exposure to PFAS is widespread and that nearly all people in the United States have some PFAS compounds in their blood. Exposure to PFAS can lead to higher rates of kidney and testicular cancer, higher cholesterol levels, thyroid problems, adverse developmental effects and decreased immune response in children, and other adverse health impacts.

A study conducted by Duke University found that many of the top-rated antifogging sprays and wipes used to prevent condensation on eyeglasses contain high levels of PFAS chemicals—up to 20.7 milligrams per milliliter of solution. People are likely to directly absorb the PFAS on their hands or inhale it in the spray, while PFAS pollutes the air and surfaces through sprays and wipes. Furthermore, disposal of wipes can contribute to PFAS contaminating our environment.

This legislation bans PFAS in antifogging sprays and wipes, beginning in January of 2024. New York State has already passed laws to ban PFAS in firefighting foam, food packaging, carpets, and clothing. To protect public health and drinking water, it is necessary to ban additional unnecessary and dangerous uses of PFAS chemicals. There is no reason to continue to allow the use of PFAS in antifogging sprays and wipes.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS
A.5363/S.992—Ban on PFAS in Antifogging Sprays and Wipes**

CCE is an 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

March 2023