

**House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee
Informational meeting on PFAS in certain consumer products and forever chemicals**

September 23, 2025

**Testimony of:
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Good morning, Chairman Burgos, Chairman Metzgar, and members of the House Consumer Protection, Technology, and Utilities Committee. Thank you for your invitation to provide testimony on PFAS in certain consumer products and forever chemicals.

My name is Jennie Shade, and I am testifying on behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA) which represents over 700 municipal authorities across the Commonwealth. Authorities provide essential services, including drinking water treatment and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, solid waste management, and other community projects to roughly six million people in Pennsylvania. In addition, PMAA has over 500 associate members, including accountants, engineers, and solicitors who support authorities.

Municipal Authorities as Passive Receivers of PFAS

Municipal authorities neither manufacture nor profit from the commercial use of PFAS. Rather, they are passive receivers of these contaminants as PFAS enter drinking water sources, wastewater systems, biosolids, and landfill leachate through no fault or action of their own.

Once PFAS infiltrates public water and waste systems, municipal authorities are left to bear the burden of detection, regulatory compliance, and increasingly complex and costly treatment, often with little to no financial assistance or relief. This creates an inequitable and fundamentally flawed system in which municipal authorities, and ultimately the ratepayers they serve, are held responsible for cleaning up pollution they did not create.

PFAS Treatment is Technically Complex and Financially Burdensome

The removal of PFAS from drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste streams is not only scientifically complex, but also prohibitively expensive. Treatment technologies such as granular activated carbon, ion exchange resins, and high-pressure membrane systems come at a steep cost in both capital infrastructure and long-term operational expenses.

For many small and mid-sized authorities, particularly those in rural or economically disadvantaged

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communities, these costs are simply unsustainable. Compounding the challenge, even the most advanced treatment systems cannot always fully eliminate PFAS, and safe disposal of PFAS-laden residuals remains a serious environmental challenge.

Support for Extended Producer Responsibility and the Polluter Pays Principle

PMAA firmly supports the “polluter pays” principle and has incorporated this stance into our official advocacy platform. The following adopted resolution underscores our position:

Resolution 12-25

RESOLVED, That PMAA, in recognition of the fact that municipal authorities are passive receivers of PFAS compounds, support legislation, regulation, or policy that imposes the treatment cost of removing PFAS-related compounds from the Commonwealth’s water on to PFAS manufacturers and those that use PFAS in commerce.

To that end, PMAA urges the General Assembly to advance policies that:

- Hold PFAS manufacturers and industrial users financially responsible for the contamination they cause, in accordance with “polluter pays” principles.
- Establish state-level funding or cost recovery mechanisms to support public water and wastewater utilities facing PFAS-related treatment demands.
- Promote upstream solutions, including source reduction strategies and mandatory product labeling to limit PFAS use and entry into the waste stream.

Preserve the Role of Municipal Authorities as Service Providers, Not Polluters

Any state or federal regulatory approach to PFAS, including potential liability provisions, must explicitly recognize the passive role of municipal authorities. These entities should not be unfairly penalized for receiving and treating PFAS-contaminated water and waste generated by upstream industries and consumers.

Instead, municipal authorities must be treated as essential partners in the collective response to PFAS contamination, not as sources of the problem. Preserving this distinction is critical to ensuring fair and effective environmental policy.

Conclusion

PMAA appreciates the Committee’s leadership in addressing the far-reaching impacts of PFAS on public health, the environment, and essential infrastructure. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the General Assembly and other stakeholders to protect Pennsylvania’s water resources, manage waste responsibly, and continue serving our communities. To accomplish these goals in a fair and sustainable manner, it is imperative that those responsible for PFAS contamination are held accountable, while municipal authorities that work tirelessly to mitigate its impacts are supported in their efforts to safeguard public health and the environment.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am happy to answer any questions.