## *Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee Update*

***By Phil Mahoney, FSA Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee Chair***

Over the past quarter, the main focus of the Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee continues to be PFAS-related issues, but we are also monitoring the status of emissions regulations in the U.S. and other regulations suggested by members.

On the PFAS front, activity on the U.S. federal front has been fairly quiet, however, the U.S. DoD did release an "Update on Critical Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Uses" report in July which was distributed to the team. Essentially the report reinforces earlier conclusions that current use of PFAS in critical uses are extensive (and identifies new sectors where PFAS use is critical) and outlines a phased approach to prioritizing research and development into alternate materials. The report also noted that significant challenges in terms of time and cost remain, with some specific uses that could take from 10 to 25 years in development and qualification testing. It also notes that many current applications lack viable substitutes, and that a key priority is to develop strategies to ensure short- and long-term availability of these critical materials (using US-based supply chains to ensure continuity). Also, though it's at this point probably widely known, there was an extension of the U.S. EPA's PFAS Reporting Rule; the end date for submissions is now October 2026.

At the U.S. state level, the main focus has been the Minnesota PFAS in Products Reporting and Fee Rule. FSA submitted comments during the extended comment period. Just recently, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency extended the initial PFAS reporting deadline from January 1 to July 1, 2026.

On the international front, Sandy Van Den Broeck, ESA's ESG Committee Chair, continues to monitor the status of the EU REACH's PFAS regulations with no major changes in timelines since our last update. The ESA is also focused on activities in the EU on plastics reduction, and they have an active project looking at alternative, green materials to replace packaging components commonly used for sealing devices. The U.S. is starting to see activity at the federal and state level on plastics (micro-plastics etc.), and we'll continue to monitor and report on that at upcoming meetings.