



October 7, 2025

### **Written Testimony Opposing SB128**

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club. Sierra Club is the largest nonprofit grassroots environmental organization in the United States, with more than 18,000 members and supporters in Wisconsin. Inspired by Wisconsin's beautiful lakes, forests, rivers, and other natural features, we work together to protect our communities and the planet.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), otherwise known as “forever chemicals,” are synthetic chemicals in non-stick coatings, waterproof fabrics, and industrial products like firefighting foam, among other materials. They are heavily resistant to heat, water, and oil and do not break down naturally. When ingested, even at extremely low levels, PFAS have been known to cause a variety of health issues, including certain cancers (kidney and testicular), hormonal imbalances, immune function disruption and reproductive system problems. These chemicals have contaminated Wisconsin ecosystems across the state and created a serious, pervasive problem that requires dedicated funding and polluter accountability to protect Wisconsin communities.

Sierra Club opposes SB128 and encourages changes to the language that are protective and proactive, responding to the following concerns:

- Protecting the Spills Law and prioritizing private well owners.
  - As outlined in the legislation, entities that may be parties responsible for PFAS contamination, such as airports, municipalities, or paper mills could be exempt from the responsibility under the Spills Law to restore the impacted environment and minimize the harmful effects of the contamination. This is unacceptable, shifting the responsibility away from those who caused serious harm and potentially saddling others with exorbitant cleanup costs.
  - Private well owners should be prioritized under the innocent landowner grant program, which is currently written to include large entities that may themselves be responsible for PFAS contamination. Private well owners have had to bear the weight of pervasive contamination due to no fault of their own.
- Fund the necessary work. The bill does not tie funding to the proposed programs, despite the fact that the legislature set aside funding for PFAS clean up purposes two years ago. The majority of the funding necessary for remediation work should come from responsible parties.

Thank you for listening to our concerns. We look forward to updated legislation that is responsive to the needs of most impacted communities.

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Sierra Club Wisconsin