

HB20-1143

TESTIMONY FROM LIZ ROSENBAUM
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Fountain Valley
Clean Water
Coalition

Support for House Bill 1143

My name is Liz Rosenbaum and I live in Southern El Paso county, the Fountain Valley Communities. A place that has experienced more than 4 major water contaminations. The polluters have been industrial companies, dry cleaners, battery companies, and now the military. This last contamination is the one that will be a forever chemical called PFAS. After each contamination there were minimal fines, no convictions, and residents were left with health problems. There were a few lawsuits which didn't change contamination prevention. We have left self regulation to companies long enough, it is time we create consequences and make citizens stakeholders at all the decision making meetings. I fully endorse House Bill 1143 which will do just this with significant daily fines for non-compliance and allowing the people who are contaminated to have a stakeholder position at the meetings.

The toxic firefighting foam contamination in my community has affected all of us, the military personnel using and training with the foam to their families exposed at home from mom and dad's contaminated uniforms. Firefighters have contracted diseases and cancers affiliated with these chemicals at a much higher rate as well. My community neighbors have been drinking contaminated water for at least two decades. What is we contract cancer from these contaminations? IF we can afford health insurance the cost to cure our cancer can be upwards of over \$1 million. If we can't afford insurance, we will die. None of this has to happen if we take control and no longer allow companies to dispose of their chemicals through our bodies and environment. I am not their disposal route for deadly chemicals and neither are you.

Thank you for your time listening and I am more than willing to talk with you more in understanding the effects to communities that have been contaminated. I have been leading a local coalition for over four years now.

Regards,

Liz Rosenbaum
February 10, 2020