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LEAGUE

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Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Colorado Municipal League and our 270 municipal members, we respectfully ask for your yes vote on Senate Bill 218.

PFAS are manmade chemical substances found primarily in firefighting foam in Colorado. Uncontrolled, PFAS chemicals can leach into ground water. An increasing number of communities in Colorado are finding evidence of PFAS contamination in ground water, especially areas near military bases, fire stations and airports. CML is becoming increasingly concerned by the proliferation of these substances being found in ground water across the state given their adverse impact on health and the prohibitive cost of removing these substances from water sources, especially for small communities.

Removing PFAS requires technology not found in many standard water treatment facilities. The City of Fountain recently finished a design on a treatment plant to address PFAS contamination in their community which is estimated to cost nearly 8 million dollars. In Fountain's case, 7 million dollars of that will be provided for by the Department of Defense, because the PFAS contamination is primarily coming from Peterson Airforce Base. However, that will not be the case for many communities across Colorado. Many municipalities are already heavily burdened by the financial cost of compliance with water quality standards, some to the extent that they cannot afford what is being required of them. Any actions that would add to that burden will require a state- local partnership and an investment of the state in public health, safety, and welfare.

While the 8 million dollars collected in this cash fund per year will not be enough to cope with the overwhelming costs created by PFAS and PFOA contamination across the state, we do appreciate CDPHE's efforts to provide resources to impacted communities and would ask for your support on this bill.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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