

**Monday March 3, 2020**

**HB20 - 1119 testimony**

**.iz Rosenbaum, community organizer and clean drinking water activist  
Southern El Paso County HD21 area**

Dear Committee Members,

First I'd like to start off by saying thank you. Thank you for those of you committed to protecting the health of my community and those of us across Colorado as a priority last year with HB 1279 and now this one HB1119. PFAS contamination of our drinking water systems is a health crisis not only here but across this nation. The contamination in my community is from toxic firefighting foam, AFFF, or PFHxS. This deadly foam may or may not contain PFOA (teflon) or PFOS (scotchgard / water repellent) depending on the manufacturer's recipe.

These chemicals are forever chemicals, something we will always have to deal with so it is from over four years of being educated about these chemicals that I implore you all to stop the usage of toxic firefighting foam. We have all heard the term "grandfathered in" and it comes from the Reconstruction time period after slavery, it means: if your grandfather voted you can too. Well for all the people recently freed from slavery, they were not allowed to vote. The grandfather clause does not work! Exemption means: the process of freeing or state of being free from an obligation or liability imposed on others. Again, another way to endanger the most vulnerable of our population, and an environmental justice issue.

In June of 2019 Bradley International Airport in Connecticut was allowed an exemption for continued use of toxic firefighting foam, and a spill occurred that then reached the Farmington River. Not once, but TWICE. This led to toxic levels in the fish, wildlife, and a banning of fishing. The second time was in October of 2019 and the foam used was for a WWII plane crash where seven people died, and the river was even more contaminated.

We have to stop contaminating ourselves! Exemptions are not beneficial to the people living near areas that have already been identified as contaminated. We have to stop adding to the pollution. In California there is George Air Force Base which is so highly contaminated from toxic firefighting foam, oil, fuel, and hundreds of other contaminants that literally no one can live there for over 500 years. This is what exemptions lead to, death sentences to us, the people living nearby, the people using the foam, and families.

In our community of the Fountain Valley area, we all know someone who has cancer, died from kidney cancer, or has survived it several times like my friend Molly Miller who could not attend but submitted her testimony for me to give to you.

Please value human lives over the profits of corporations. We can't all afford the health care needed of over \$1 million (cost for 1 person to survive kidney cancer) to survive our cancers.

Believe me when I say my community is more persistent than PFAS, and we will go to every length to protect ourselves through every means necessary.

**Liz Rosenbaum**

**Survivor (so far) of toxic contaminations**