

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Environmental Regulation
For HB 1674

Compiled on: Friday, May 9, 2025 3:30 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: May 8, 2025 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Randy Palachek
Civitas Engineering Group / self
Austin, TX

I and most of the water and wastewater professionals in the state have a significant concern with this bill. These many concerns with this bill will present severe problems for the water and wastewater rate payers in the state to try and fix a problem that I don't believe exists. The EPA and TCEQ studies performed for PFAS samples in water and biosolids have found in general levels in Texas that are below the regulated levels proposed by the EPA for drinking water. This bill would remove any beneficial use of municipal biosolids that is produced at every wastewater sewage plant in the state. There is a massive amount of biosolids that are produced across the state that have beneficial uses as fertilizers such as Austins 'Dillo Dirt that residents spread on their lawns to land applications related to large farm and ranch operations. This bill would kill all such uses and force all biosolids to go to a landfill. We all know how much everyone hates landfills and this would make them fill up many times faster for something that can have a sustainable and beneficial use.

To date there has not been any state testing of this issue to even determine if there is any concern. This bill would generate a massive expense and burden on all residents of Texas without the State or EPA independently verifying any concern. It would also apply to all rural residents that are even on septic tanks and require expensive testing of their own waste before it can be land applied by a hauler.

There is simply not any evidence of a problem that this bill is attempting to fix.

No utility, especially larger wastewater plants, can hold their solids for the approximately 21 days waiting for the Office of the State Chemist testing results to come back. Secondary issues with odor and staging will require much quicker disposal methods. Residents around all these facilities will react very negatively to large piles while the tests are analyzed.

TCEQ is the agency that regulates all water and wastewater related permits and samples in the State and all jurisdiction should reside with them for any biosolids. Having different agencies involved in environmental regulations does not make sense. In addition, Agencies will have to staff up a significant amount to handle this new regulation which is definitely not needed, as the problem just doesn't exist.

Recent sampling performed by Parsons Corporation and Duke University for Synagro show the levels at the Johnson County Farm are not reflective of results being thrown around in the media. These results refutes previous reporting. The State should do their own independent sampling to verify results before jumping head long into a major bill that will cause widespread economic effects to all residents of the state.

Texas should not pass legislation impacting all of Texas to address a Johnson County issue without additional testing and proving that the issue is a State issue

The data is not there for a statewide bill

Kathryn Clark
Self
Waxahachie, TX

PFAS are forever chemicals. We have to protect our land and ultimately our ground water.

Joseph Brookshire, SFC
Self
Midlothian, TX

Impacts on Human Health

PFAS exposure occurs through contaminated water, food (e.g., seafood, crops), and consumer products. These chemicals bioaccumulate in the body, with half-lives of 2-8 years for compounds like perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), leading to chronic health risks.

- **Cancer:** PFOA and PFOS are probable carcinogens, linked to kidney, testicular, and liver cancers. The C8 Health Project in West Virginia showed elevated cancer rates in communities with PFOA-contaminated water.
- **Immune Dysfunction:** PFAS impair immune responses, reducing vaccine effectiveness. A 2020 study found children exposed to PFAS had weaker antibody responses, increasing disease susceptibility.
- **Endocrine Disruption:** PFAS disrupt thyroid function and fertility. Studies link them to hypothyroidism and reduced sperm quality.
- **Developmental Harm:** Prenatal PFAS exposure is associated with low birth weight and developmental delays, per NIH research.
- **Metabolic Issues:** PFAS contribute to obesity, diabetes, and liver disease by altering lipid metabolism.

Communities near contaminated sites, like farmland treated with biosolids, face higher risks, with vulnerable groups like children and pregnant women most affected.

Impacts on Livestock

PFAS contaminate livestock through water, feed, or soil, affecting animal health and food safety.

- **Health Effects:** PFAS cause liver damage, reduced fertility, and immune suppression in cattle and poultry, per 2020 research.
- **Food Chain Risks:** PFAS accumulate in meat, milk, and eggs, transferring to humans. In 2019, a New Mexico dairy farm closed due to PFAS in milk.
- **Economic Impact:** Contamination leads to unsellable products, testing costs, and land devaluation, threatening farmers' livelihoods.

In agricultural areas, PFAS could disrupt cattle and poultry industries.

Impact on the Environment

PFAS' persistence and mobility harm ecosystems globally.

- **Water Contamination:** PFAS pollute groundwater and rivers, affecting drinking water and aquatic life. Fish exposed to PFAS show reproductive and immune issues.
- **Soil and Plants:** PFAS in soil reduce crop quality and disrupt microbial activity. Crops absorb PFAS, posing food safety risks.
- **Wildlife:** PFAS bioaccumulate in birds and mammals, causing reproductive failure and biodiversity loss.
- **Global Spread:** PFAS reach remote areas like the Arctic via atmospheric transport.

In Texas, PFAS from biosolids threaten fisheries and ecosystems.

Conclusion

PFAS contamination threatens human health, livestock, and ecosystems through cancer, immune suppression, and environmental disruption. Throughout Texas, it risks agriculture and water resources. I urge you to support HB 1674 as a first step to eliminating the danger posed by PFAS contamination to Texans.

Sharon Tryon
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am in support of this bill please pass this bill

Scott LeMay, Mayor
City of Garland
Garland, TX

Dear Chairman Landgraf and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Garland, I am writing to respectfully express our opposition to House Bill 1674, which would significantly restrict options for the disposal of biosolids produced during the wastewater treatment process.

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are commonly used in the manufacturing of products such as non-stick cookware, stain-resistant textiles, and various household or commercial cleaning services. These compounds ultimately enter local wastewater treatment systems, like ours, as part of the discharge from homes, businesses, and industries. While the treatment process effectively cleans the water, the resulting biosolids inevitably retain some of these persistent substances.

Currently, the City of Garland does not apply or sell biosolids for agricultural use. Instead, we dispose of them in our municipally owned landfill. Many utilities across the state, however, are not so fortunate. They lack affordable access to a local landfill or sufficient capacity to store biosolids while awaiting results from PFAS testing - testing which often takes weeks to complete.

These utilities will be forced to seek alternative disposal sites, and in many cases, this may include Garland's landfill.

While Garland will continue to accept biosolids from its own wastewater treatment plant, it is not likely to agree to accept biosolids from other agencies due to the problematic nature of managing this material for landfill operations. Enacting HB 1674 would increase the burden on already limited landfill resources across the state without first ensuring that sufficient, safe alternatives are available.

We recognize concerns about the health and environmental impacts of biosolid application. The ongoing Johnson County litigation underscores the complexity of this issue. We believe, however, that Texas needs a more comprehensive, science-based understanding of the long-term effects of biosolid usage before imposing blanket restrictions that may lead to unintended consequences, particularly for landfill infrastructure and public utilities.

For these reasons, the City of Garland urges the committee to reject HB 1674 and instead recommend additional statewide studies into the health, environmental, and logistical impacts of biosolid management practices.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (214) 794-8904 or via email at slemay@garlandtx.gov.

Sincerely, Scott LeMay Mayor, City of Garland

Roger Queen, Mr.

Self

Waxahachie, TX

These products have shown to be very dangerous to soil, animals, and persons. The consequences have been final, without much hope of reversing the effects of this chemical in all its forms. I don't think it should be manufactured, sold, distributed, or used when it contains perfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances. If any of the above happens it should be a criminal offense.

Nisha Philip

Self

Hurst, TX

Please take necessary action to stop the unbearable sewage stinge in our neighborhood.

MICHELLE KUHLMAN

SELF - OFFICE

ALVARADO, TX

As a very concerned citizen of Johnson county, I am appalled at the lack of concern over our land and water being polluted by forever chemical found in biosolids from a company called Synagro, coming from the City of Fort Worth's disgusting sewage system. The Texas legislature better do something about this. People are sick, animals are dying and land is being rendered as ruined. This is permanent and irreversible. I want to see a sense of urgency given to this bill and I want it passed.

Who in the world would vote against such a thing, unless of course they are being paid off by lobbyists, Synagro or some other such giant corporation.

Pass this bill immediately

Emily Rimmel, Sr. Director Regulatory Affairs
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington DC, TX

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on proposed H.B. 1674, which, if enacted, would result in higher sewer bills and require Texas farmers to buy more expensive synthetic fertilizer (which likely contain PFAS). NACWA represents the interests of 360 clean water utilities of all sizes across the United States, including 17 municipal wastewater utilities in Texas.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are perhaps the most challenging and complex suite of contaminants the public wastewater sector has ever faced. Municipal clean water utilities are passive receivers of PFAS – they enter publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) and biosolids from upstream industrial, manufacturing, and even domestic sources (e.g., from laundry detergents, toilet paper, cosmetics, and cookware). But wastewater utilities were not designed to treat these “forever chemicals” and there is no currently available technology that can remove or treat PFAS at POTWs.

By setting allowable PFAS concentrations arbitrarily low, the bill will impose a de facto ban on land application of municipal biosolids, thereby eliminating the most sustainable management option for public agencies. The only two other biosolids management options – incineration and landfilling – are not enough to handle the amount of biosolids produced daily and carry their own PFAS challenges.

Any legislation addressing PFAS in municipal biosolids should be based on data and demonstrated risk. H.B. 1674 is grounded in neither, and would stop the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality from studying both. It would also significantly increase the cost of providing basic sanitation services in Texas, to the detriment of public ratepayers.

One thing H.B. 1674 would not do, however, is actually resolve the issue of PFAS contamination in Texas. This pollution comes from many sources including, studies are increasingly finding, pesticides.

Rather than the ill-conceived biosolids approach proposed in H.B. 1674, the Legislature should instead consider following the lead of states that have already been proactive in tackling PFAS problems. These states, like Michigan, have adopted a true tiered strategy – rather than an all-out ban on land application – which has showed early signs of success, especially when coupled with additional study and critical source control measures.

The Legislature should also call on regulators to conduct assessments of the State’s landfill capacity and the costs associated with having to eliminate land application of municipal biosolids so that any future decisions made by lawmakers will be fully informed by the facts.

Clean water utilities must be part of the States’ PFAS solutions, not victims of them. NACWA and its members look forward to working with the Legislature on this critical environmental issue.

Emily Rimmel, NACWA

Alison Stalder
Chaparral Estates neighborhood in Bedford, Tx.
Bedford, TX

My neighborhood is affected very frequently by the Synagro biosolids plant a few short miles to the south. We cannot enjoy fresh, clean air. The stench is similar to death. We don't want to smell that and we certainly do not want it going into our lungs. Please put a stop to this! I'd like to see the plant shut down. Thank you for taking the time to consider this very important matter.

Dana Ames, Deputy
Johnson County Constable PCT #4
Cleburne, TX

Introduction; I am Detective Dana Ames and am employed as an environmental crimes' investigator at Constable Troy Fuller's Pct #4 Office in Johnson County Texas.

I am testifying in strong support of HB 1674 after the findings in our investigation revealed the following facts. The victims in Johnson County farms have been found to have excessively high levels of toxic chemicals known as Per & Polyfluoroalkyl Substances also known as PFAS or forever chemicals after a neighboring famer used human waste also known as biosolids on his agricultural land.

The victims' soil, surface water, and animals tested revealed toxic levels of PFAS contamination. Over 56 cows have died, 2 horses as well as household pets. Tissue Samples revealed a stillborn calf had 610,000 ppt of PFOS in its liver. This is over 260 times greater than what TCEQ's Reference dose is for safe consumption of PFOS. This would be equivalent to 260 days maximum exposure in a single meal.

3 Texas agencies have conducted independent test of the city of Fort Worth's human waste biosolids fertilizer. All 3 agencies used a Texas approved laboratory for this testing. Those results were as follows.

Johnson County results from a sample dated 12/01/22 identified 27 individual PFAs with PFOS at 13,000 ppt and PFOA at 560 ppt

Office of the State Chemist Sample dated 01/10/24 identified 35 individual PFAS with PFOS at 22,000 ppt and PFOA at 777 ppt.

Ellis County results from a sample dated 04/17/25 identified 26 individual PFAS with PFOS at 17,000 ppt and PFOA at 1,300 ppt.

The EPA MCL for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water is 4 ppt, magnitudes lower than what was found in the soil, surface water, tissue samples and direct biosolids fertilizer samples.

Health risk assessments conducted by NIH show PFOA and PFOS are carcinogenic, bioaccumulate, and are found to be extremely toxic to humans and animals.

Complete farming operations have been destroyed in Johnson County from PFAS contamination as well many farms in Maine, New Mexico, Michigan, Agusta Georgia, West Virginia, South Carolina. The majority of those cases were directly linked to contaminated biosolids usage.

Please don't allow this to continue to happen in Texas, because the utilities want a free place to dump their waste. The real stakeholders (the citizens of Texas) in this situation need protection. Please protect the people of this state, and not the big billion-dollar industries that are profiting off this contamination.

Alan Turner
Lee County Pct 3 / Alan Turner
Giddings, TX

I support this bill as it applies to the protection of our groundwater/aquifers. We are not only wasting our groundwater, these metals contaminate what we have left of it. Threatening our future water supply and the future of our state.

Rob Hughes
Texas Forestry Association
Lufkin, TX

Texas Forestry Association Statement on H.B. No. 1674
Submitted to the House Committee on Environmental Regulation

On behalf of the members of the Texas Forestry Association, I want to first thank Representative Kerwin and the committee for bringing attention to the important issue of environmental contaminants. Protecting water quality, soil health, and public trust in agricultural and forestry practices is a shared priority.

However, we respectfully urge caution in proceeding with state-level mandates as proposed in H.B. No. 1674 without broader federal alignment and comprehensive academic research. The proposed PFAS testing, disposal, and reporting requirements could impose significant burdens on Texas businesses, landowners, forest products manufacturers, and the rural economy at large—without clear, nationally standardized science or enforcement frameworks to support implementation.

Specifically:

- **Texas Landowners and Industry Could Be Disadvantaged:** Imposing state-specific limits and enforcement ahead of national EPA guidelines may inadvertently place Texas forest products and agricultural producers at an economic disadvantage relative to producers in other states.
- **Need for Federal Uniformity and Science-Based Policy:** PFAS are an emerging national issue. A consistent federal framework is essential to ensure that all states are operating under the same science-based thresholds and best management practices. Texas should not act in isolation.
- **Request for Collaborative Study:** We encourage the legislature to support academic and agency-led research in partnership with industry to assess the presence, risk, and fate of PFAS in biosolids and related products in U.S. soils and forestlands before enacting penalties or mandates that could disrupt critical operations in rural communities.

The forest sector depends on responsible land stewardship and science-based regulation. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and would welcome collaboration with the committee, Texas A&M AgriLife, and other stakeholders on a path forward that protects both our environment and economy.

Respectfully,
Rob Hughes
Executive Director
Texas Forestry Association

Silvia Aparicio

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Subject: Urgent Need for Action on Environmental Issues

Dear Representative Helen Kerwin,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Silvia Aparicio and I am a resident of Lakes of River Trails East community in Fort Worth, Texas. I am writing to bring to your attention the pressing environmental issues we are facing in our community, particularly concerning the persistent foul smell that has been affecting our daily lives.

This ongoing odor is not just a nuisance; it poses a serious threat to our health. Recent studies have linked health issues, such as respiratory problems, thyroid disease, and various cancers, to exposure to PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Many residents, including myself, have experienced negative health impacts that we believe may be associated with these harmful chemicals.

Furthermore, the presence of PFAS in our environment jeopardizes the value of our homes and properties. It is imperative that our health and the value of our residences are protected.

I urge you to advocate for stronger environmental regulations and immediate action to address these issues. Protecting our community's health and heritage should be a top priority.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Silvia Aparicio

superpiba@gmail.com

Chad Seales

Self / Teacher

Austin, TX

Please support this proposal keep soil and water safe from forever chemicals that harm us and our environment.

susannah frishman-phillips

self, food retail worker

austin, TX

Please help protect Texas farmers, farmlands, waterways, food and drinking water for all Texans by moving forward with HB 1674 which will limit PFAS that can be so dangerous to people, animals and the land. The bill's requirements are not onerous or expensive for those who would need to comply and could make a real difference for all of us Texas citizens in this beautiful, bountiful state. Thank you.

Sara Miller

Marie's Farmstead

Dale, TX

We should not be contaminating our land, soil or food, and we certainly should not be allowing others to do so. As a homesteader, small farmer, and food consumer I want the food I eat and the land it is grown on to be free of PFAS and other harmful chemicals. This bill is a step in the right direction and one that everyone regardless of what side of the aisle you are on can and should support. Please support this bill and the health of my family, community, and Texas at large!

David Will, Mr.
self
Schulenburg, TX

I feel it is important to fix a problem once it has been identified. Forever chemicals (PFAS) should be prohibited from sale. Farmers and ranchers like me do not need to poison the land when we are trying to feed the public nutritious food. Without this becoming law, forever chemicals can be put in any product often without the knowledge of the consumer.

Candace Marshall
Self
Plantersville, TX

For years we've used products containing these ingredients and our health has suffered from it. We've even abandon areas that had previously be sprayed, only to come back years later and the residue of these chemicals are still there. These chemicals should be taken off the market, at least here in Texas.
Texans need your help in removing these dangerous chemicals from the shelves.

Roger Trussell, 45 year retired Firefighter
Self Retired Firefighter and old school carpenter
Cleburne, TX

I am a 45 year Firefighter (35 year paid in Cleburne Fire Department and 10 years volunteering at Bono Fire Dept).This PFAS situation is in my opinion something that should have been dealt with years ago as Human Sewage from Ft.Worth,Tx.sewer plant was being spread all over our Johnson County pastures,ranches,farms and who knows where else.It first came as a sludge just like some septic tank cleaners and was dumped and spread out over land that was in the Nolan River Watershed which ends up in Lake Pat Cleburne as drinking water after going through the water treatment plant.This has been going on for many years and probably still is! My concern is the fact that after the PFAS danger was brought to light and cattle and horses and fish were dying, this was not treated as an emergency situation but was sat on in the Capital like it wasn't something that needed to be moved to the front of the agendas and dealt with ASAP! We are talking about Human lives endangered but also the health and welfare of future generations for decades to come and most likely Forever(as the PFAS was named the Forever Chemical meaning it doesn't go away)! I have to admire our Commissioners Court for making the stand and decision to decree Johnson County as a "disaster " County and now the outcome is in your hands.You can either stick your head in the sand and ignore Johnson County's in my opinion DIRE situation of our poisoned water and food production or you can deal with this Immediately and possibly save many lives now and in our future. I have many other concerns with State regulations like why can't County's in Texas deal with safety and Code regulations of Trailer Parks but that is for another time.In conclusion, I just want to tell you that our Cleburne Fire Department Challenge Coin has three Latin words on it (anti se Alli)which means others before self and three other words that we strive to live by, Integrity,Honor,and Pride.I am certainly not a political person but I do believe that God is in control of all things and someday we will all face Him and give an account of what we left behind on this earth! Not how much money or power we had but how we treated all people we came in contact with! God Bless the State of Texas and God Bless America!

Crystal Nuding
Self
Lockhart, TX

Please stop using poisonous products on our food, farms, animals and humans. This is criminal. People are noticing who is supporting and benefiting from this criminal activity. Time will tell who is on the side of good and right, health for humanity, and those on the side of greed, money, profit against We The People. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

william Eddins
self
AUSTIN, TX

PFAS aren't researched enough to know if a cancer illness is related typically. We should rid PFAS risks whenever possible.

Donald Corley, Mr.

Self

Godley, TX

You, you Legislatures, must do your part in protecting the citizens of our state. Protection from beef polluted with PFAS is your responsibility.

Troy Fuller, Constable

Johnson County Constable Precinct 4

Cleburne, TX

My name is Troy Fuller and I am the elected Constable of Precinct 4. That includes Grandview, TX, which is part of the original Johnson County Investigation into the land application of Biosolids.

You have heard testimony on the science and importance of why the land application of biosolids is not good for Texans. PFAS contamination is not isolated to one area of Texas and has become a statewide and national crisis

Secretary Kennedy recently visited Hillsboro, TX spoke of his civil suit against Dupont and 3M resulting in the largest settlement ever regarding PFAS chemicals. So famous it resulted in a motion picture named "Dark Waters". Secretary Rollins also spoke of her concern of PFAS chemicals being used in biosolids on agricultural land. Our office during the course of our investigation has received hundreds if not thousands of calls wanting help as they face similar situations across the State of Texas and other States. The day that government fails to act on behalf of the people to protect them. Then as a society we fail. An unregulated manmade chemical is not natural and when introduced into our ecosystem demonstrates a systemic failure on the behalf of government because of the failure to regulate. Please don't be deceived by a TCEQ telling you about "fake science" because what is presented is scientifically fact based.

It has been cited through several sources that the state's water supply is endangered and that there are plans to invest billions of dollars over the next several years to create solutions. Funds should be earmarked for the regulation of PFAS to protect our water sources including eliminating land applied biosolids and better management of our waste water and sludge that ultimately become biosolids. When applied these biosolids create catastrophic results in both our soil and water supplies. These are why they are referred to manmade "FOREVER" Chemicals, as they bioaccumulate and do not degrade rapidly in time.

I pray that as representatives of this great state that you in the kingdom of God serve as sheepdogs to deliver the flock from the mouths of the wolves. We understand that predators exist and that they don't necessarily think of the existence of outcomes and are willing to destroy to sustain their own interest. Our future is determined by your willingness to find a solution to a complicated issue. Our people are endangered and you right now have the power to help by supporting HB 1674.

Cara Young, Mrs

Self- small farmer,

Amarillo, TX

Please support this bill to protect our land and water. It's a well known fact that PFAS lead to devastating disease. There's no reason not to prevent the further spread of this problem in all environments especially where there is food production and that leach into water supply. There are plenty of alternatives that do not contain PFAS and it is unnecessary to allow products that do. In fact, it is imperative to protect from PFAS. A dollar today isn't worth health now or in the future

Sharron Turner

retired allied medical person

Glen Rose, TX

I support HB 1674 to protect our land, waterways, animals and people from forever chemicals being put on to the lands and waterways using sludge. Kerwin has a reasonable bill to protect our environment.

Luanne Langley

Self

Grandview, TX

Please consider passing this. We moved to Grandview in 2011 and I have been fighting biosolids since then. We have been affected by the toxins called PFAS by the city of Fort Worth and Synagro. We need your help to make sure this stops before more families lose everything they've worked so hard to have

Thank you, Luanne N Langley

Sylvia Coulson

self- Dietitian

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Caryn Moore

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill! Stop the forever chemicals going into our soil!

Sharon Tryon

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill

Kathleen Thompson

Homestead Texas Farm

BUCKHOLTS, TX

As a resident of Texas and a small scale sustainable and organic farmer I have serious concerns regarding the use of agricultural products and the long term effect that have on our environment and our health. There has been significant scientific evidence that many chemicals in our food/soil and water have negative impacts on us all. Please support the reduction/elimination of the use of these "lifetime" chemicals.

Erin Miranda

Self

Cleburne, TX

I have been a resident of Johnson county for 27 years. We chose to live here in a more rural area so that we could enjoy cleaner air, water, and the country life. The introduction of biosolids containing PFAS into our region is now threatening that way of life. Can we have a garden anymore and use the hose to water it? My husband was diagnosed with a blood cancer last year, with no family history of cancer. This has caused fear in our family and has been a strain on us financially. Was it a result of exposure to PFAS? Please do not allow these biosolids containing PFAS into Texas.

Lisa Healy

Self

Midlothian, TX

I support this bill. Please vote for this bill. Thanks for your consideration.

Anne Griffin
self
Red Oak, TX

Please get this bill out for a vote. This is a much needed regulation to enforce the effort to keep PFAS out of our soil and environment.

William W Roberts
self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this HB 1674.

Jessica Sutton
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Biosolids sale and use should be outlawed immediately to ensure the health and safety of our community.

David Gibson
TEXAS CORN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
Lubbock, TX

May 8, 2025

The Texas Corn Producers Association appreciates the intent of HB 1674 to protect landowners from having their property and their agricultural products damaged by applying sludge to their land that is contaminated with PFAS chemicals.

This is an emerging issue that agricultural producers in Texas are just now becoming aware of. Among those who have heard of problems associated with PFAS contamination in sludge, it is causing concern and confusion because so little is known about it at this time.

The more we learn about this issue, the more we become concerned that agricultural producers could unknowingly be victimized in ways that destroy their livelihood by making their land and their products worthless. At this point, we have identified several areas of concern.

First, if legislation is passed to require testing of sludge for PFAS chemicals by the appropriate authority, landowners should receive notice of those test results on any batch of sludge prior to its delivery for land application. The notice should be in writing and confirm that the PFAS level in the load has been tested and is within a safe limits.

Second, landowners must be protected from liability for unknowingly applying sludge that contains PFAS or unknowingly producing agricultural products containing PFAS.

Third, private landowners must be protected from having their land tested for PFAS contamination without written consent.

Finally, this issue is so new and of such great potential consequence to agricultural producers that we cannot determine what state legislation is appropriate at this time. Further study and research may be needed to identify specific issues and potential legislative or regulatory remedies. We urge the Legislature and the appropriate state regulatory agencies to conduct comprehensive studies and issue recommendations.

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a number of initiatives to address many issues related to these chemicals. Because this problem affects our entire nation, a federal response may be the most effective way to approach it rather than a patchwork of state laws and regulations.

Kenneth Flippin
Texas chapter of US Green Building Council
Taylor, TX
Good bill of protection

Stephen Zarate
Self
Maypearl, TX
Ian in support of this bill.

Judith McGeary
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Cameron, TX

The Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance (FARFA) supports HB 1674. The ability to raise food relies on two vital natural resources: soil and water. The application of sewage sludge to farmland threatens both, causing dangerous contamination of our topsoil and surface waters that cannot be easily remediated. Prevention is crucial. Unfortunately, individual action is insufficient to address this problem. Many farmers choose not to apply PFAS-containing sewage sludge to their own lands. But sewage sludge application doesn't just impact the land on which it is applied; the runoff from it impacts neighbors' lands and the area's water sources. Farmers have no effective means to protect their soils or water from the contamination. This ultimately can be ruinous not only for the individual farmers, but our ability to raise food in this state. FARFA thus urges the Environmental Regulation committee to approve HB 1674 and move this bill forward to protect farmers, ranchers, and our state and national food security.

Randy Stinson
Ellis Co Tx Government
Palmer, TX

I am against the process of distributing Biosolids on properties in Ellis co Tx . . This practice leads to contamination of our domestic water source from forever contaminants such as the problems created in Johnson Co. due to Biosolids distribution.

Matina Rose, HB 1674
Self
Forrester, TX

I live near an area that has been affected by biosolid pollution. This stuff has too many contaminants to be put in the soil. Some other means of disposal needs to be found that will not affect soil, groundwater and livestock for generations to come.

Laura Giles
Self
Lucas, TX

Please pass this important legislation to protect Texas soil & citizens from cancer causing chemicals! The for-profit companies are lying! We KNOW these chemicals show up in our foodsystem, our water and have many lasting downstream impacts in our water and wildlife ecosystems - for forever!

William Eichelberger

Tony Tinderholt

Hurst, TX

Dear Representative Tony Tinderholt,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is William Eichelberger, and I am a resident of Hurst in Texas. I am writing to bring to your attention the pressing environmental issues we are facing in our community, particularly concerning the persistent foul smell that has been affecting our daily lives.

This ongoing odor is not just a nuisance; it poses a serious threat to our health. Recent studies have linked health issues, such as respiratory problems, thyroid disease, and various cancers, to exposure to PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Many residents, including myself, have experienced negative health impacts that we believe may be associated with these harmful chemicals.

Furthermore, the presence of PFAS in our environment jeopardizes the value of our homes and properties. It is imperative that our health and the value of our residences are protected.

I urge you to advocate for stronger environmental regulations and immediate action to address these issues. Protecting our community's health and heritage should be a top priority.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

William Eichelberger
912 Rock Ridge Ct
ceo.billy@gmail.com
817-422-7001

Terry Todd
self
Ovilla, TX

I absolutely support HB1674. We must NOT allow contamination of land and/or water supplies in Texas, by Biosluge dumping in any area near rural and/or urban areas. Testing of the results of such dumping must be done so as not to poison animals, livestock, humans or water sources and ground water. Do the RIGHT THING! Terry Todd

Melody Allen
Self - Logistics Manager
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill as a proud Texan who deeply values my health, our agricultural industry, and the integrity of our food supply. Growing up on a local family farm in Ellis County, TX, I learned firsthand the dedication it takes to raise livestock and cultivate the land. This upbringing shaped my appreciation for sustainable farming and reinforced my commitment to supporting local farms and ranches that uphold these values.

However, my support for House Bill 1674 extends beyond agriculture—it is also deeply personal. This past year, I lost my 45-year-old sister-in-law to cancer. Tragically, she is not the only loved one I have lost to this disease. Over the years, numerous friends and family members have also succumbed to cancer, and as research continues to evolve, we are learning more about the alarming role that perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) play in causing or contributing to this devastating illness.

These "forever chemicals" do not break down easily and have been linked to serious health risks, including cancer and fertility issues. Their presence in biosolids—disposed of near some of the local farms and ranches that I support—poses a direct threat to livestock, the vegetation they graze on, and consumers like myself who rely on locally sourced, high-quality food. Allowing the spread of PFAS contamination near farms undermines the hard work of Texas farmers and ranchers while endangering public health.

This issue is not just about agriculture—it is about the health and safety of every Texan who depends on local food sources for nourishment and well-being. By passing HB 1674, Texas has the opportunity to safeguard its farms, protect its residents, and preserve the integrity of our food supply for future generations. I strongly urge you to support this bill and take decisive action to prevent harmful contaminants from undermining our agricultural industry and public health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Andrew Wier
Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund [SAWDF]
Bastrop, TX

Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund (SAWDF) supports HB 1674. As Executive Director, I work with landowners across Bastrop, Lee, Milam, and Burleson counties to protect both the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer and the private property rights associated with groundwater ownership. SAWDF has closely studied the occurrence and risks of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—commonly known as “forever chemicals”—and their potential to contaminate regional groundwater systems.

SAWDF has direct knowledge of PFAS contamination in a rural area spanning the Bastrop–Lee County line. A commercial turfgrass operation applied DilloDirt—a biosolid compost product derived from municipal sewage sludge—over approximately 1,000 acres. Following a significant rainfall event, runoff carried this material onto neighboring rangeland. A stock pond received a high sediment load, resulting in a fish kill. Laboratory analysis conducted by a certified facility detected PFAS concentrations exceeding the EPA’s interim drinking water health advisories and approaching levels cited in the EPA’s Draft Risk Assessment for Sewage Sludge.

A livestock toxicology expert at Texas Tech University advised the affected rancher to restrict livestock access to the contaminated water. As a result, the rancher lost the use of two stock ponds and was forced to reduce herd size. Soil and vegetation testing is now underway to assess broader impacts.

HB 1674 is a necessary and timely response to this class of contamination. The bill incentivizes wastewater treatment facilities to implement PFAS-sequestration technologies—such as activated carbon or ion exchange systems—that isolate PFAS compounds from biosolids. This would allow for safer management of treated sewage sludge, preserving its use as a soil amendment while minimizing environmental and agricultural risks.

By promoting technological improvements in PFAS removal and ensuring biosolid safety, HB 1674 represents a critical step toward protecting public health, livestock operations, and aquifer integrity in affected regions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Martha Carlson, Ms.

Self, farmer

SMITHVILLE, TX

Please support this bill. Even farmers who choose not to use sewage sludge on their farm can be impacted by the runoff from farms that do. And there's no way to stop it or get rid of them. They're called "forever chemicals" for a reason. Thank you for reading my comments.

Rachel Hanes

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

San Antonio, TX

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of our sixty-two member groups that are allied in advocacy for the preservation of our ground and surface water resources in twenty-one counties within Central and South Texas. We support HB 1674.

Stephanie Jentsch

self

Grandview, TX

Please vote for banning toxic PFA's. We shouldn't even be voting on this. This is a FOREVER CHEMICAL THAT HARMS HUMANS AND ANIMALS!

Karina Byous

self / Police Officer

Kemp, TX

I support the bill as proposed.

The existence of PFAS and the associated health hazards have been known for decades and the evidence of the dangers only grows with each additional study. Texas needs to take a stand and protect our agricultural lands and water sources which will not only protect Texans but all those who source products from Texas. The EPA failed to update the 503 rule for approximately years, while knowing the risk as proven in the DuPont class action lawsuit. Other states have already taken corrective action. Texas is too valuable in resources to knowingly allow this contamination to continue without consequences. Please vote in favor of HB1674

Linda Curtis

League of Independent Voters of Texas

Bastrop, TX

We strongly support this legislation and are deeply concerned that we haven't easy solutions to this contamination issue. Please pass this out of committee today and get a floor vote. Thank you.

Becky Smith

Clean Water Action

Houston, TX

Clean Water Action supports HB 1674.

LINDSAY KIMBRELL, Farmer

Self

ITASCA, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Biosolids are a valuable and sustainable resource for agriculture, and many farms—including ours—have used them for over 20 years with no negative effects. The EPA has not established a clear threshold for what level of PFAS is considered harmful, so basing policy decisions on data from PEER rather than EPA guidance undermines the agency's authority and scientific process. Please allow for further scientific research before restricting access to this essential tool for farmers. Premature action risks harming agricultural operations and sets a dangerous precedent for science-based regulation. Thank you for your time and protecting farmers rights to a valuable fertilizer.

Brandt Klutts, President

Second Nature Compost LLC (Self)

Boerne, TX

Thank you for your service to Texas

As one of the largest Composters in the state of Texas. We are Texas Owned and Serve the South Texas Region Proudly. I am concerned that this is the State of Texas setting a precedent regarding PFAS levels that will be applied to all agricultural products including pesticides, fertilizers, etc.. These levels will be applied to all composters whether specifically mentioned or not. The way to stop PFAS is at the source regulating the manufacture and use of PFAS chemicals in our products. Municipalities and Composter are passive recipients. We don't make PFAS or add PFAS to anything we produce. Food Waste Compost, Manure Compost (Poultry&Cattle), Biosolid Composters, and even Backyard Composters will be held to this new PFAS standard whether they are specifically mentioned or not.

Sites where Biosolid was once land applied source from Municipalities will be wrapped up into remediation proceedings and liability suits. The state will be sued in court for singling out the Ag industry and applying standards unfairly at a specified industry. I appreciate what Representative Kerwin is trying to do, and it sounds like environmentally progressive legislation, but in this instance the unintended consequences are too great. Keep in mind PFAS chemicals have been in use for 70 years and that this PFAS problem can be fixed if the EPA will ban production of these chemicals. There is a bill (HB1730) already being considered to study the effects of PFAS. I would think you would want to pass that one and get some answers before you start setting arbitrary limits. This bill creates a new safety standard. I really think Rep Kerwin's issue is with Land Application of Sludge and since the Texas Congress approved this method for fertilizing fields years ago, she is coming at it a different way using PFAS. I personally don't like land application of Sludge, but Composting is the solution to this problem according to the US Compost Council. This bill may not specifically mention composters, but it has the unintentional effect of hurting Composters across this state. This has the potential to cost the state tens of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions in tax revenue each year. And it's bad for the environment because it takes something like composting which is good for the environment and stigmatizes it and opens it up to litigation efforts.

The reference to disposal in a Hazardous Waste Landfill also contradicts EPA's own guidance regarding biosolid. "Biosolid fertilizers are nutrient-rich organic materials derived from the treatment of domestic sewage. They provide essential nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and micronutrients, which enhance soil fertility and promote plant growth. Applying biosolids can improve soil structure, increase water retention, and reduce erosion, leading to better crop yields. They are considered a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers in agriculture" USEPA.

Linda Showalter, Retired teacher

Life long Texan

Midlothian, TX

Protect our land and water!

Lora Hinchcliff

Texas Chapter of the US Composting Council

Tyler, TX

I am submitting written testimony on behalf of the Texas Chapter of the US Composting Council to oppose HB 1674/SB 886, Relating to the production, sale, and use of certain agricultural products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), creating a criminal offense. This bill proposes to solve a difficult question by imposing unscientifically based and severe consequences based on extremely low limits. This would disproportionately punish managers of public wastewater solids, and businesses and municipalities who, under the Environmental Protection Agency's 21-year-old Part 503B biosolids regulations, turn those materials into beneficial resources for horticulture, agriculture and other uses. These entities are categorized as "passive receivers" who through no fault of their own may receive the ubiquitous chemicals listed in the bill in their feedstocks. There have been no scientifically studied limits as to the amount of these chemicals that are unsafe in soils, biosolids and compost, and setting arbitrary limits would have extremely detrimental impacts in several ways. 1) Testing: The bill's requirements would require up to thousands of dollars in additional testing costs to compost manufacturers, on top of the \$2,500-\$6,000 in annual testing expenses for those already compliant with strict STA standards. In most cases, this would double or even quadruple a producer's current testing costs. 2) Disposal: After testing, if the materials do not meet these artificially low limits, disposal of the entire "batch" to a hazardous waste management facility will impose unmanageable costs on businesses, municipalities and taxpayers and ratepayers. An even more onerous penalty is that if materials test over the limits two or more times in a calendar year, the facility must stop selling ALL of their product until tests are consistently below the limits. This would close down businesses in a state that prides itself on "business-friendly" practices. 3) These financial burdens also include the loss of revenue from halted operations, potentially crippling the critical and flourishing organic waste recycling infrastructure in the State of Texas. The level of financial burden threatens the viability of sustainable waste management practices – and this occurs without addressing the numerous products above these limits in our households. 4) Contraction of this industry will have a ripple effect and severely impact the agriculture, horticulture, and landscaping industries by removing a valuable, widely used resource from their toolkits. We suggest instead that the State of Texas conduct baseline sampling IMMEDIATELY through the Texas university system of soils across the state to understand the amount of these chemicals already being found in farmland, whether or not the land has had spreading of soil conditioners, fertilizers and/or composts. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and comments. Please oppose this bill.

Risa Weinberger
Risa@risawassoc.com
Dallas, TX

Testimony by Risa Weinberger
HB 1674
House Environmental Regulations Committee
May 8, 2025

My name is Risa Weinberger. I am testifying on behalf of myself.

I am a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. I am an environmental engineer with over 40 years of Texas experience in the field of solid waste management, including over 25 years specializing in composting for both public and private clients throughout Texas and elsewhere.

I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons.

Compost is a product highly valued by the agriculture and horticulture industries, as well as by landscapers and gardeners. This product improves plant growth, reduces the need for synthetic agricultural chemicals, protects soil from erosion, reduces the need for irrigation, reduces stormwater runoff and flooding, improves surface water and groundwater quality, and improves groundwater recharge.

Composting is an important method of diverting biosolids, the residue from municipal wastewater treatment, away from landfills. It is a process that recycles organic material that would have otherwise been disposed in landfills where they would have generated leachate and methane.

There are 19 registered composting facilities that can process biosolids in Texas, plus others operating under wastewater permits. At least three major cities are constructing biosolids composting facilities or are planning to. These facilities require millions of dollars in permitting, construction and equipment. They also employ staff to operate and maintain these facilities.

HB 1674 is an attempt to hold biosolids composters responsible for PFAS that COULD be contained in some of the feedstocks that they recycle to produce compost. Compost manufacturers are passive receptors of PFAS, so liability for PFAS should not be directed at them.

HB 1674 sets arbitrary limits on PFAS levels in compost that contains biosolids. These limits have been set without the benefit of sound, peer reviewed research determining whether PFAS in compost actually increases human exposure and, if so, at what levels. This bill makes no distinction between background levels of PFAS contamination and levels in compost that may be determined in the future to potentially affect human health.

Please note, that to my knowledge, there are currently NO commercial compost laboratories in Texas capable of testing compost at the parts-per-trillion levels specified in the bill.

HB 1674 would devastate the biosolids composting industry in Texas, in my opinion, by unfairly burdening that industry with PFAS liability including the threat of disposing of huge quantities of their product in hazardous waste landfills based on a single exceedance of any one PFAS limit that was set without scientific basis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Greg Weidenfeller, GM
New Earth / WeCare Denali Co
San Antonio, TX

My name is Greg Weidenfeller, General Manager, and I represent New Earth/Denali Water Solutions and I am here to testify in opposition of HB1674. We operate a composting facility in Bexar County and have been in operation for approximately 26 years of which I have been there for 19 of that. We manage several different feedstocks that are diverted from landfill including brush, mulch, lumber, food/fruit/ and vegetable waste, and of course biosolids. We defer several hundred tons of organic waste from landfill.

We receive and compost 70k tons of biosolids annually that is composted to meet all regulations passing it through PFRP (Process to Further Reduce Pathogens) and it is tested monthly to ensure that it is safe to handle per the levels of harmful pathogens in the compost. It is all sold and there is no stockpiling as there is not excess material, it has very high demand in our market. New Earth's biosolids compost does not go to the agricultural markets, but rather as landscape materials both commercial and residential maintenance and development. Many are very large jobs. The soils in our area are shallow and these materials help beautify landscapes as well as reduce water usage needed to maintain them. We are the receptors of this material as is and doing the good work to make it a usable and safe product for handling.

I have many years of experience of composting biosolids and I know the service we provide is a highly beneficial program turning this waste into quality materials deferring them from landfill. What I don't have is much experience with is PFAS chemicals that I understand exist everywhere in products we all use everyday. We are all exposed to these chemicals as consumers as I understand it is present in many products and most importantly in packaging in foods we consume and other textiles. What this bill (1674) proposes is that biosolids compost must be tested and pass PFAS acceptable levels to that of drinking water??? Where is the research and science behind PFAS in compost and the effect composting has on it. Would it not make more sense to increase testing of PFAS in pre-consumer products vs post-consumer, bio compost?

I'll conclude that again I ask you to oppose HB1674 as holding compost to PFAS testing standards of drinking water seems ludicrous as no one will be consuming this compost and there is no science behind the effects composting has on the PFAS chemicals. More research and testing should be conducted before imposing such legislation. What we do with bio is highly beneficial and sustainable to the environment all the while keeping the costs much less than the alternatives available to disposing of bio. It may be a possible resolution to remove "compost" from this bill as an alternative being that composting is such a beneficial process to us all.

Thank you for your time,
Greg Weidenfeller New Earth/WeCare Denali

Dwight and Carole Phillips
Self
Godley, TX

We are against the dumping of biosolids on land. We live adjacent to a site with a permit issued by TCEQ (Harrington Environmental). There are times that the smell is so bad that you cannot stay outside. We also have a creek that runs through our property into Lake Pat. We personally have a well. The dumping has to be affecting both of these. We have cattle, and some calves have been stillborn- with no know. Reason why. Please do something. We have been trying to stop this for over 20+ years now.

Kathy Ponce
Self
Maypearl, TX

I support this bill. Pass it out of committee immediately so it has a chance on the TX House floor

Jennifer Zarate
Self
Maypearl, TX

I support this bill. More oversight is needed with such toxic substances. I'm not in favor of biosolids however, if they are used & distributed there must be real oversight.

Grace Andres
Self- Medical Student
Austin, TX

Good evening Chairman Landgraft and house committee members, I am Grace Andres, a medical student, a previous researcher of PFAS, and someone who wished I could have testified in committee tonight.

I would like to get straight to the point. I think we can all understand how alarming it must have been for these farmers to find their cows and fish dying. We will/can all see from their stories the impact this had on their livelihood. However, I am here to ask, if this is killing cows and fish, how can we think any amount of this chemical is safe for human exposure? PFAS in small amounts have already been linked to cancer, fertility problems, liver damage, hypertension, and other health problems. AND There is no known dose that has ever been proven safe. That said, I absolutely support HB 1674 in regulating PFAS use in the agriculture industry. I think it is our responsibility, you as policy makers and me as a future physician, to protect the people of Texas from things that can impact their health. We must think about the future of our animals, our crops, our children and keep them safe from exposure to these dangerous chemicals. I urge you to support this bill.

However, I also ask you to think about how this happened? The biosolids that are used as fertilizers are created from sewage and wastewater. How is it that our water and sewage has become so contaminated with PFAS that the biosolids they create are deadly. Regulating these chemicals use in agriculture is an important way to limit humans exposure, but we also must look to explain and understand how the pervasive use of PFAS in consumer products (like our food packing, non-stick pans, even cosmetics and dental floss), the fracking industry, and in chemical manufacturing plants around Texas, has led to the problem of PFAS making their way into the agriculture industry in the first place.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Steve Williams, Constable
Self
Alvarado, TX

I have personally watched the city of Fort Worth trucks, come to Johnson County, in my precinct, Precinct 3, and dump sludge from their sewer treatment plants on a field on County Road 506. It took two days to dump all of the "stuff" that they dumped. Then it was immediately plowed under. On the second day it was so "swampy" the trucks had to be pushed or pulled out of the mud while they continued to dump their sludge.

This took place about 7 years ago. Now, almost all of the trees between my house, which is on County Road 502, and the dump site are either dead or dying. The distance between my property and the dump site is about 1.5 or 2 miles, as the crow flies. When my wife, who has had to go through the agony of breast cancer for the last 2 years, and I bought the house we currently live in, she loved all the trees around it. Since the dumping by the city of Fort Worth, I have had to cut down about 40+ trees. There are a few more that need to be cut down now.

The practice of dumping this PFAS rich sludge has got to stop. It is killing people, animals, and vegetation, not only where it's dumped but for miles around the site, and for years after the dumping.

This must be criminalized with a penalty that is harsh enough to make it not worth the risk to violate any law prohibiting this act.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Nova Olson, Mrs
Self
Godley, TX

These substances are known to be harmful to humans, animals and fish. Humans, animals and fish are dying as a result of PFAS contamination and they are known teratogens. Johnson County has been declared a disaster as a result of PFAS contamination. Several types of cancer rates are up in Johnson County. Legislators, stop these substances from continuing. We have to stop this before more damage is done to Texans and the Texas environment like in Virginia. Eight states have already taken a comprehensive approach to regulating these dangerous substances. Legislators, you need to be proactive about protecting Texans and our animals and water we consume.

Shelly Smajstrla

Self

Kopperl, TX

If you had to be outside on your property smelling this human waste you would absolutely be sick to your stomach. It is horrible! We have livestock and are worried about what it would do to them and us if it were to get into our groundwater supply. We live in Bosque County and have witnessed this stuff being applied to nearby pastures. The smell is so overpowering that we cannot stay outside and enjoy an evening by the fire pit. I have often been unfortunate enough to be outside in my yard when one of these trucks full of it, would drive by and oh the smell! Makes you want to throw up! How is this even thought to be good? Have you ever smelled a sewer back up? Gross! And also, you have to wonder if these people were doing drugs or whatnot, will that end up on our land? Please be considerate of those who put y'all in office! Every summer we dread seeing those trucks on our road! It's pretty bad when you own a pretty piece of property and can't even sit out on your porch because of the smell! A lot of times these property owners that are applying this stuff are absentee landowners, so they don't even have to be around it. We beg you to put a stop to it!!! Because our county commissioners in Bosque County could care less. I've contacted ours and he said basically that there is nothing they can do! I call BS! I applaud anyone that can help us put a stop to the biosolids being applied to our precious water resource. Please help us!

Diane Donoho

Ellis & Navarro County Citizens Against Waste Facility

Italy, TX

There is hard evidence with test results that show PFAS is killing livestock & wildlife and tainting vegetation and causing devastation in area farmlands. We see this in Johnson county. This needs to be stopped before it contaminates all of Texas! Please pass this bill to be a start to make things safer. This is a start to a much bigger problem that needs to be addressed with just not the PFAS contaminates, but I plead with my legislators to look into this in other areas of concern such as the horrible 'gap reflex' smell it creates to spray this fertilizer and how this will drop our property values. I live in Ellis County and there is a proposal to put a Biosolid Waste Treatment Plant right by my house. I am scared and REALLY concerned on what this means to my family and community around me. Please keep Texas great and help us citizens fight this.

Marta Oliveira

Self

Godley, TX

I live across the road from a dump site of many years on HWY 4. This place has been a problem for absolute years. Dumping untreated RAW sewage from septic companies that have undergone zero testing just straight from peoples backyard septic. The land has runoff that goes into creeks and eventually the Brazos.

They dump during rain (which they are t supposed to), it smells, and the public has had hearings with TCEQ for years and the public outcry falls on deaf ears... this is a public health issue for more than just the well waters around this dump but to many more through none testing and runoff to water supplies. This place should be shut down entirely as it is not a hazardous landfill.

Respectfully,

Marta Oliveira

Diana Harmon

Self

Crowley, TX

My father owned a small farm in Hill County that has now passed to my sister and I in Trust. I grew up around farming. I have Cancer. A blood cancer that has no cure. My cancer is not known to be genetic. It is caused by environmental exposure to chemicals. This bill addresses the urgent need to protect our food supply and the people living on and near farm lands. PFAS, many other chemicals, microplastics, and nanoplastics are an expected and routine part of municipal sewage. Spreading processed sewage known as Biosludge and Biosolids on our farm lands endangers every one of us. These contaminants enter our food and water. PFAS build up. This class of chemicals are taken up into the food crops grown for humans and animals. Into the grass and hay eaten by the meat animals we consume. PFAS then build up in our own bodies. In our water too as these chemicals are mobile in soil thus contaminating ground water even some distance from the application site. Farmers have been kept horribly ignorant by an industry and cities that sought both profit and a solution to municipal waste. For many years Farmers were sold biosludge as a cheaper and effective fertilizer. Our farm lands MUST be protected from further contamination. I am begging, for all our sakes, that this bill is passed. Thank you.

Ryan Wacker

Self

Hurst, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1674, a critical piece of legislation aimed at addressing the devastating impacts of biosolids facilities on Texas communities. As a resident living near one of these facilities, I have witnessed firsthand the unbearable toll it has taken on our quality of life, local agriculture, and environmental health. This bill is a necessary step toward protecting our communities and ensuring that the harmful practices associated with land-applied biosolids are properly regulated. The most immediate and pervasive issue is the horrific odor emanating from biosolids facilities. The stench is not merely an inconvenience—it is a relentless assault on our senses, infiltrating our homes, yards, and daily lives. Families cannot enjoy outdoor activities, open their windows, or even breathe comfortably without being overwhelmed by the foul smell. This is not the quality of life Texans deserve, and it has driven many to feel trapped in their own neighborhoods, unable to escape the pervasive odor that lingers day and night. HB1674's provisions to strengthen oversight and regulation of these facilities are essential to mitigate this public health nuisance and restore our right to clean, breathable air. Beyond the odors, we are deeply concerned about the potential health risks posed by airborne PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) from biosolids. These "forever chemicals" are known to persist in the environment and have been linked to serious health issues, including cancer, immune system disorders, and developmental problems. The application of biosolids to land raises alarming questions about the spread of PFAS through dust and air, potentially exposing nearby residents, workers, and ecosystems to these dangerous contaminants. Without stricter regulations, as proposed in HB1674, we are left vulnerable to an invisible threat that could have long-term consequences for our health and the environment. Perhaps the most heartbreaking impact of land-applied biosolids is the destruction they have wrought on local farmers. Agricultural communities, the backbone of Texas, are being devastated by the contamination of their fields. Biosolids have rendered fertile land unusable, contaminated crops, and jeopardized livestock, leading to significant financial losses and, in some cases, the complete collapse of family farms. Farmers who have worked tirelessly to steward the land for generations are now faced with soil degradation, reduced yields, and the stigma of producing goods from tainted fields. This is an economic and cultural tragedy, stripping away livelihoods and threatening the food security of our state. HB1674's measures to regulate biosolids application are critical to protecting our farmers and preserving Texas's agricultural heritage.

Katherine Marolf

Self

Joshua, TX

Pfas should be illegal. It should be a criminal offense to use them. And the people responsible for what the PFAS in our soil and water should have to pay to have them cleaned up as well as paying for the medical of anyone impacted.

Lisa Kight
self-retired
Arlington, TX

I am opposed to using biosolids and the PFAs those biosolids contain. I believe it is an enormous threat to public health and the quicker we we can get that done the better. Texas must find better solutions for the health of our citizens and the youth of tomorrow.

Rick Bailey
Johnson County - Cleburne, TX
Cleburne, TX

I strongly support HB 1674 regarding regulation regarding county permitting authority.

richard smith
self
cleburne, TX

please get to the bottom of the problems and address them

Wendy Spivey
Henderson County Pct 1
Malakoff, TX

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 1674. It is imperative that we gain control over the use and disposal of PFAS and hold accountable the companies responsible for their release. The dangers posed by these substances extend beyond land contamination, significantly threatening the health of animals, fish, and our communities.

Having attended several town hall meetings on this critical issue, I can attest that there is widespread opposition to the introduction of PFAS onto properties. The residents who attended these meetings are united in their concern and opposition. The diligent efforts and research conducted by the Johnson County Commissioners have been invaluable in educating us about the serious hazards associated with PFAS.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support HB 1674 and urge its swift passage. This bill is essential for protecting our environment and the well-being of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Wendy Spivey
Henderson County Commissioner Pct 1

Mickey Fisher, Ms
Self
Keene, TX

Forever Chemicals are a PROBLEM in Johnson County Texas as well as in Texas & the USA!...SUPPORT HB 1674!
PLEASE – For the health and well-being of ALL Johnson County/Texas residents SUPPORT HB 1674!

Greg Cooper
Texas transparency Project / Self
Joshua, TX

Committee Members:

Please consider the health and welfare of the citizens of Texas and follow the lead other states have taken relating to these forever chemicals! Johnson County has lead the way relating to investigating and documenting the health hazards of these forever chemicals. Health and Welfare should ALWAYS be placed above profits and business. This bill has ZERO partisanship in it, it prioritizes citizen health and well being at the forefront and begins to create a safer, healthier Texas for future generations!

PLEASE place the people first! Please SUPPORT HB 1674!

Thank you for your consideration!

Greg Cooper

David Morris
Retired
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill to help us control the use of these chemicals.. We are only just learning how pervasive these chemicals are in the water we drink and the food we eat and the results are not good. Thank you, David Morris

Thomas Cheek
Self
Hillsboro, TX

PFAS are harmful because they persist in the environment, leading to widespread contamination of soil, water, and air. They pose significant health risks, including cancer and developmental issues, and can accumulate in the bodies of humans and animals over time. Additionally, PFAS are found in many everyday products, making exposure common and difficult to avoid.

Vicky McPhee
Self
Burlson, TX

Texas needs to be a leader and stand beside what is right. We must protect our children and all future generations. We must stop the use of biosolids as it has been shown they contain high levels of deadly PFAS. It's past time to stop turning a blind eye and find a new solution. The illnesses and loss of life to both animals and humans is unacceptable, not to mention the devastating impact to the environment. We should go a step further. It's should be our right to know if any biosolids, because of the PFAS, is in any fertilizer we use (such as bagged fertilizers)

Deborah Foster
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please vote to support this bill and keep these forever toxins out of our soil and water.

Kayla Lain
Self
Godley, TX

Please vote yes to hb1674. Forever chemicals (PFAS) are killing our livestock and our citizens!

Mark Donoho
Self. Construction Superintendent
Italy, TX

To whom it may concern,

I am Highly opposed to the use of PSAF's in Ellis and Navarro Counties. There is a permit out for discussion right now and has to be stopped. Permit # is "WQ 0005485000" this is for a 12-million-gallon human waste pond to produce fertilizer to spread in Ellis and Navarro Counties on 4500+ acres. The area is in the Richland Chamber Lake water shed, which provides drinking water to Fort Worth Tx. and several other municipalities. There is no reason to have a 12-million-gallon human waste sludge pond with yards of family homes. This has got to be stopped and not allowed. There is no way to control run-off during a rain event. The location of the purposed facility is directly uphill of a tributary of "Big Onion Creek" which flows into "Chamber Creek" Which in turns empties into Richland Chamber Lake. Any amount of run off from, either from the facility or the 4500+ acres of corps cannot be contained and will end up in Richland Chambers Lake. Any use of PFAS in the State of Texas should be against the law

Bettie Gray
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I SUPPORT this bill.

Carl McConnell, PE
Carl D. McConnell Engineering
Houston, TX

I am in favor of passing HB1674. PFAS is an issue that will never go away. Any elimination of PFAS from our environment is an asset to the protection of the Health, Welfare, and Safety of the population, three definitions of my Code of Conduct as a Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.

Sheila Cheek, Retired
Self retired rancher
Hillsboro, TX

I care about people and realize we need to stop the spreading of bio solids on our Texas farms and ranches! When you are struggling, you make bad choices! So I feel we need more studies before putting on the land! In my opinion, it is not a good idea. There are bad things in this type of fertilizer! Please listen to our pleas!

Sharon Tryon
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill

Josh Schroeder, Mayor
City of Georgetown
Georgetown, TX

The City of Georgetown respectfully opposes House Bill 1674. While we share the Legislature's interest in addressing PFAS and protecting public health and water quality, this bill imposes costly, premature, and operationally unfeasible requirements on local utilities like ours—without the benefit of finalized federal standards or proven testing capacity.

Georgetown does not land-apply biosolids; instead, we haul sludge to landfills. However, under this bill, if landfills begin treating biosolids as hazardous due to PFAS content, municipalities will face a dramatic increase in disposal costs—costs that will be passed directly to ratepayers. Unlike large industrial generators, cities do not have the negotiating power or financial flexibility to absorb those impacts. Local utilities are already operating within safe parameters, and the bill's requirements exceed what is scientifically necessary or practically enforceable.

Additionally, the EPA's own biosolids PFAS risk assessment remains in draft form. It is premature for Texas to implement state-level mandates before national standards are complete. The risk of unintended consequences—operational disruption, legal uncertainty, and significant ratepayer cost—is high, without knowing the full context of what happened in Johnson County.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to oppose HB 1674. Georgetown stands ready to support science-based, workable policies that protect our environment without compromising essential local services.

George Hilliard
self, Strategic Account Manager
Bedford, TX

Please ban these toxic chemicals from our agricultural products. They poison our crops, even if we grow organic, through direct and indirect exposure from winds and runoff. My brother's garden was poisoned inadvertently due to these chemicals contaminating 'organic' manure based fertilizer.

Christopher Boedeker, Judge

Johnson County

Cleburne, TX

As County Judge of Johnson County, a mixed rural-urban county of more than 200,000 residents, I declared a local disaster due to PFAS contamination related to biosolids. This has already inflicted harm on local ag producers, ranchers, water sources, and economies. HB 1674 is not a solution to a hypothetical problem - it is a necessary and urgent safeguard for all Texans.

This is not only an environmental issue; this is an agricultural issue, an economic development issue, a national security issue, and food security issue that impacts every Texan.

Use of Contaminated Biosolids as Fertilizer is Unregulated, Untraceable, and Widespread

In Texas, when sewage sludge is applied to property, the landowner must apply for a permit through TCEQ and comply with notification, posting, and buffer-zone requirements. However, if a product is certified as a fertilizer, that process is bypassed. The product can be sold to any user, distributed to any location, and applied to any field. In fact, the fertilizer label would allow these products to be sold in bagged form for any Texan to use in her home garden.

Property Rights are Paramount

In Texas, we hold property rights sacred. We also expect the law to protect our property rights from the actions of our neighbors. In one case in Johnson County, a lessee applied contaminated biosolids to land he leased for hay production. Ultimately, his neighbors experienced runoff that killed the fish in his pond, killed 1/3 of his herd of cattle, and contaminated his drinking water supply. Because testing is not currently required, landowners could not know the fertilizer was contaminated, but multiple tracts of generational farmland have been pushed out of production – possibly for a very long time.

Agriculture and Food Security Impact all Texans

Our farmers and ranchers are essential to the food security (and, therefore, national security) of Texas and the nation. When biosolids contaminated with PFAS are applied to agricultural land, those chemicals do not remain contained. In Johnson County, PFAS have migrated through soil into well water, streams, and animal tissue, with some water tests showing concentrations hundreds of times above the EPA's safe drinking limit. Contaminated crops, livestock, and water jeopardize more than just one county; they threaten the integrity of our food supply and public trust in Texas agriculture

HB 1674 is a natural extension of the Texas Right to Farm Bill, which prevents landowners from shutting down agricultural operations through the use of nuisance lawsuits. Today, neighbors are capable of shutting down agricultural operations by contaminating the land, even unintentionally, without any oversight.

Economic Development

Developers ask about the potential impact of PFAS on proposed developments, and some processors have refused to buy livestock from Johnson County. While Johnson County has led the way in testing, this is not an issue limited to Johnson County.

Linda Ricks

Self

Midlothian, TX

Dear Members,

Please vote for this very important bill and help clean up our ranches/farms. Allowing these chemicals in our food sources should never be allowed.

Thank you,

Linda Ricks

Noah Hocking
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I do not want toxic PFAS broadcast across Texas farmland. They have been linked to birth defects, infertility, immune dysfunction, and cancer. Run-off from rainfalls can spread these chemicals everywhere, contaminating water, compromising ecosystems, and even spreading onto the properties of neighbors who choose not to use contaminated "fertilizers," who have no realistic way of stopping them. I believe the sale and use of any product containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) should be strictly prohibited and closely regulated. There should be mandatory testing for all agricultural products. Any person found to be selling products containing PFAS should be punished. The use of PFAS is a threat to the health and safety of humans, animals, and ecosystems, and, since these chemicals do not break down, they will have harmful consequences for many generations to come. I believe this is a fundamental human rights violation, and appropriate action should be taken to remedy the situation.

Shelley Grant
Cancer Survivors and myself
Burleson, TX

Please pass this bill.

Charlotte Gilman
self -retired
Austin, TX

Having learned about the damage caused to land and consequently food products produced on it by fertilizers and soil amendments (including sewage sludge) I SUPPORT and call on the committee to pass out of committee HB 1674. I believe we need to protect the quality of our farm land which is already being lost to development. I believe prohibiting the sale, distribution, or use of fertilizers and soil amendments (including sewage sludge) containing unsafe PFAS levels needs to be controlled and measuring levels is in the interest of consumer health.

Kelley Brooksher
Boss Bodyworks
Humble, TX

Toxic "forever chemicals" have no place in our soil, water, or food. HB 1674 helps stop the contamination at its source. PFAS chemicals (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are industrial toxins linked to cancer, immune dysfunction, infertility, and birth defects. These "forever chemicals" don't break down in nature—and they're being spread across Texas farmland through sewage sludge and biosolids marketed as fertilizer. HB 1674 puts enforceable limits on PFAS in these materials, protecting farmers, food safety, and public health. HB 1674 prohibits the sale, distribution, or use of fertilizers and soil amendments (including sewage sludge) containing unsafe PFAS levels. It requires manufacturers to test monthly and publicly report PFAS levels in their products, and makes it a criminal offense to knowingly sell or apply PFAS-contaminated materials above legal limits. Even farmers who choose not to spread these contaminated "fertilizers" on their land are being impacted – because run-off during rainfalls carries the PFAS in the sewage sludge onto neighbors' properties and the surface waters. Without this bill, producers and consumers alike remain vulnerable to contamination that can destroy livelihoods, poison drinking water, and compromise food systems for generations.

Brenda Penshorn
SELF
New Braunfels, TX

Please support this bill

PaTricia Skiles

Self

Grandview, TX

Please approve this bill and help it move along so that we can protect our environment and the people who live here. Thank you,
Tricia Skiles

Michele Wallace, Mrs.

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill, HB1674

Jane Kelley, Ms

Self retired Ellis County Gov.

Italy, TX

Please vote to prohibit these products from use in Ellis County.

Luanne Langley

Self

Grandview, TX

My name is Luanne Langley, and I have been a resident of Johnson County for over 25 years. We have currently lived in Grandview Texas for 13 years. I myself have been fighting against Biosolids since 2013. I have gone before the Fort Worth City Council twice and have been interviewed twice by local news stations. I have also been in the Star Telegram regarding the biosolids. The first time I went to speak before the city council, I had taken a sample of the biosolids with me that were being dumped out near us. I was stopped by a security guard and asked what was in the jar. I told him it was biosolids. His reply was, "You can't take that in there, that is considered hazardous materials." Really???? But the city of Fort Worth, TCEQ and the EPA says it's okay and safe to dump on the land, which also gets into our water tables and our well water. Not to mention that we are breathing in these toxic chemicals that are spread when they are being applied to the soil and are blown everywhere? The citizens of Johnson County have been let down by our government, TCEQ and the EPA along with the city of Fort Worth, Synagro and Renda Enviromental for years! All of our efforts have fallen on deaf ears, and now.... there are families that have lost everything including their health and some even their lives due to the toxic chemicals known as PFAS. I am asking, no I'm demanding that you as our representatives take a serious look at HB 1674. The seriousness of this goes way beyond just Johnson County and those responsible must be held accountable. All of the requirements that are being asked of in this bill should have already been being done to protect the residents of all the surrounding counties in Texas, and actually all over the United States! Please, please don't let this atrocity continue to kill us, our livestock and our land. I implore you to implement these requirements for this bill and if the companies are found in default, they should be prosecuted to the highest extent possible.

Thank you for your utmost attention to this matter.

Luanne N Langley

Stephanie Shelton

self, retired

Brashear, TX

Hello, my name is Stephanie Lee Shelton and I am a NE Texas constituent. I am writing to urge you to support HB 1674: Relating to the production, sale, and use of certain agricultural products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as introduced by Kerwin.

This bill will help to prevent the compounded build-up of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), also known as toxic “forever chemicals”, that have no place in our soil, water, or food. HB 1674 helps to stop the contamination at its source, before harming others after it washes off from the point source.

I am concerned about the use of these PFAS because they are industrial toxins linked to cancer, immune dysfunction, infertility, and birth defects that DO NOT break down in nature. They are being spread across Texas farmland through sewage sludge and biosolids mislabeled as "fertilizer" and misdirecting people as to its real danger.

House Bill 1674 will put enforceable limits on PFAS in these materials, protecting farmers, food safety, and public health. This bill will also prohibit the sale, distribution, or use of fertilizers and soil amendments (including sewage sludge) containing unsafe PFAS levels.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Lee Shelton

Caryn Moore

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I am in support of this bill!! HB1674

Tommy Neu

Self-dairy farmer

Gainesville, TX

Please support of HB 1674, a bill aimed at protecting Texas farms from toxic forever chemicals like PFAS by enforcing limits on their use in fertilizers and soil amendments.

Barry Moore

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I definitely support this!

Samantha Buford

Self

Palmer, TX

I support this Bill.

Larry Woolley, Commissioner

Johnson County; County Judge & Commissioners Association of Texas

CLEBURNE, TX

I am Larry Woolley, County Commissioner in Johnson County representing Johnson County and the County Judge and Commissioners Association of Texas. I am testifying in strong support of HB 1674.

The Johnson County Commissioners Court recently made the decision to authorize diagnostic testing to determine if unusual cattle death loss, fish death loss and dead horses were somehow related to what the research on these harmful chemicals has already shown. The results show staggering levels of PFAS chemicals better known as forever chemicals in soil, groundwater, surface water, and animal tissue. Since these findings were presented at a special called commissioners court meeting in February of 2024, there have been at least 11 Texas counties adopt resolutions in support of PFAS regulation in biosolids. There have also been 10 states implement similar regulations and 4 more states that are currently proposing PFAS regulations. Our Johnson County case has been referenced in over 700 news articles and broadcasts covering this topic.

Some recent current events of interest over the last few months:

- The Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Filed lawsuit in Johnson County in the 18th District Court against PFAS manufacturers 3M and DuPont for “misrepresentations and key omissions they made in advertising the safety of brand names such as Teflon, Stainmaster, and Scotchgard.”
- Johnson County declared a state of Emergency and requested a Governor’s Declaration due to PFAS contamination in order to pursue state and/or federal funding for further testing and assistance for victims.
- The city of Fort Worth sued the DOD, Navy, Air Force, 3M and Dupont for contamination of their drinking water supply and Lake Worth.
- The Fort Worth City Council **TERMINATES THE AGREEMENT WITH SYNAGRO OF TEXAS, TO DESIGN, BUILD, OPERATE AND MANAGE THE VILLAGE CREEK BIOSOLIDS FACILITY.**
- The City of Dallas sues 3M, Dupont and other PFAS manufacturers in similar litigation.

EPA’s current statement recommends that states monitor biosolids for PFAS contamination.

Clearly, this is not just an environmental problem, it is an agricultural problem. The state of Texas has an opportunity today to start the process of controlling these forever chemicals from entering our soil, water, agricultural products and ultimately our food supply.

Frank Malinak, County Judge

Lee County Judge's Office

Giddings, TX

I am FOR this bill. Chemicals used in the food, medical, pharmaceutical or the manufacturing industries, unfortunately end up in sewer systems, so that when cities decide to dispose of sewer sludge by developing agricultural fertilizer, some harmful compounds including "forever chemicals" end up on our farmland. Nobody should be allowed to use toxic sludge as fertilizer as this now puts it into our food chain, and soil. That means these chemicals will likely end up contaminating our groundwater. This is not just a Johnson County issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Kimberly Jones

Self REALTOR

Cleburne, TX

Please protect our environment for us and the generations to come. Pure and simple!

Louis Ponder

Ellis County Commissioner PCT3

Midlothian, TX

Greetings. My name is Louis Ponder, I am a county commissioner in Ellis County Texas, PCT3. I am against the dumping of untested bio-solids or bio-sludge and therefore I am in favor of HB1674. I do intend to speak on behalf of this bill at the 05/08/2025 committee hearing.

Terry Todd, Ms.

Self

Ovilla, TX

I strongly support this bill. We must not contaminate the land, especially if it is used for livestock or agriculture, especially if the material being deposited there is of a chemical or waste product nature. We demand these PFAS, or other toxic materials not be deposited anywhere near farmland, residential areas or inhabited rural areas and small towns. These substances remain in the ground forever and no one really knows the long term effects on animals, humans, crops or water sources. We must not allow the future of agriculture, water supply, and on human beings to be tested and effected in this way for generations to come. Do the right thing! Thank you. T. Todf

Sylvia Coulson

self- Dietitian

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill These forever chemicals are poisoning plants, animals and people.

Anne Griffin

Self

Red Oak, TX

This bill MUST move forward out of committee for a vote! The levels of this ricochet chemical in water/wastw being dumped in our county is way above any semblance of acceptable limits. You will hear from one of our Ellis Co commissioners this week about this! Do not allow companies to take the easy and cheap route to get rid of industrial waste by dumping it on our agriculture Land!

Vickie Dillow

Self

Waxahachie, TX

Please support, this a real and dangerous problem that cannot be ignored. We must do everything possible to protect our land from this far-reaching, irresponsibly destructive practice. This clearly should be a criminal offense!

Linda Ricks

Self

Midlothian, TX

Dear Members,

I very much support the passage of this bill. Please help pass this important bill.

Thank you,

Linda Ricks

Sharleen Graves

Self/retired

Burleson, TX

Please demand the poison stops!

Traci Rickert
GRTR Farm Fares (self)
Seguin, TX

Please support this regulation...chemicals in our country is starting to take a toll and it must be stopped somewhere: NOW is the time! If we don't start fighting for a chemical free agriculture/systems, our kids and grandkids will be too sick to fight for it!!

Ronny Awtry
Self
Red Oak, TX

Forever chemicals are a threat to all forms of life. Humans included. Keep our farms, waterways and communities safe. Vote against allowing big cities to dump their sludge elsewhere.

Lori Little
Self
Italy, TX

Concerns about future effects on people, livestock and wildlife.

Faith Johnson
Self
Leander, TX

I oppose HB 1674. While I agree that PFAS contamination needs to be addressed and the environment needs to be protected, this bill does neither.

Biosolids are the final product of wastewater treatment. Any PFAS in biosolids is the result of PFAS in the wastewater. Restricting land application of biosolids does nothing to reduce the use of PFAS or its presence in the environment. PFAS in treated effluent can still be discharged directly into surface water or land applied via irrigation. Biosolids that fail the PFAS benchmarks set by this bill will be disposed of in landfills, and can still contaminate the environment via leachate or runoff. The best way to address “forever chemicals” is to restrict their use in the first place.

This bill also includes septage. As a person using a septic system, the testing requirements of this bill create an undue burden and cost on septic owners. Would I have to get my septic tank tested for PFAS before it's pumped out? How much will that cost? And if it fails the PFAS benchmarks, what if the hauler then refuses to take it? Or what if the disposal site or plant the hauler usually goes to refuses to accept it? Landfills don't accept septic waste. What options do septic owners have in these scenarios? The circumstances created by the bill only incentivizes septic haulers to “pump and dump”. To dump septic waste into a storm drain, manhole, or even directly into a creek or on the ground if they cannot find a disposal option willing to take the PFAS-contaminated waste.

This bill will not reduce PFAS in the environment. It will, however, increase the costs for homeowners on septic systems and rate payers. Please oppose this bill.

Susan Young

self

Katy, TX

Please do not pass this regulation. If PFAS are found in domestic wastewater sludge (which is very likely as humans already are consuming numerous items containing PFAS), this will increase every wastewater treatment plants expenses dramatically. These costs will be passed on to every citizen in Texas. This bill as written would classify domestic biosolids that had PFAS detected would become hazardous waste and only be able to be disposed of in hazardous waste landfills. There are currently only 3 of these in the state. The cost of domestic biosolids versus the cost of hazardous waste biosolids is very different. In addition, testing for PFAS currently takes a minimum of 20 days (which is a stretch as most labs take months to get the results to their clients) which will mean each wastewater treatment plant will need to adequate storage for the biosolids until the results are in. Most facilities do not have this amount of excess space. The cost of testing would also increase greatly as before any haul, the biosolids would need to be tested to determine if perhaps this time, PFAS were or were not detected. Finally, the testing methods for PFAS will continue to improve and more research is really needed to decide what is an acceptable limit for PFAS in biosolids. To date there is not enough data that has been published for this to be determined.

Robert Scholes

Self

Natalia, TX

Please support HB 1674. As a homestead part time farmer, the environment is so important and it critical that we stop polluting. There are better ways to keep the soil healthy and that is good for the environment. Please support this bill.

MICHAEL TOLBERT

Landowners Association of Texas- Smith County

Tyler, TX

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR), some studies in humans suggest that certain PFAS may be associated with:

- Fertility issues and pregnancy-induced hypertension/preeclampsia
- Increased cholesterol
- Changes in the immune system
- Increased risk of certain cancers (e.g., testicular and kidney cancer)
- Changes in fetal and child development
- Liver damage
- Increased risk of thyroid disease
- Increased risk of asthma

Sandy Robertson

Self

Kemp, TX

It is imperative that steps be taken to prevent the use of biosolids as fertilizer on our farmland. As has been seen in Johnson County in Texas and in many other states, it is detrimental to our health, our crops, our gardens, our herds, our water sources, the environment, our property values, the list goes on and on!! Some people are convinced that they can contain the biosolids on their land and that is just not true. Johnson County is a prime example of many people suffering from a neighbor's use of fertilizer made from biosolids. Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Kathy Denison, Mrs

Self Retired

Bastrop, TX

This is a very important bill for me. We need to do everything possible to prevent and control these 'forever chemicals' (PFASs) from poisoning our food supply and polluting our waters. Please support this bill and make our food and water safer for generations to come.

Irene nazar
Self-- rancher
milford, TX

We need to protect Texas land. Vote against contamination.

Kimberly Johnson
Self - retired
Kemp, TX

I am a resident of Henderson County Texas, where a dedicated group of residents successfully stopped the use of biosolids containing PFAS as fertilizer earlier this year. My family farm is located directly across the road from the field where these materials were going to be used, and as we begin researching to see what it was our neighbor was asking to use, we became more and more concerned about the possible harmful effects on our water, land, cattle, and families. This farm has raised cattle for almost 100 years, as well as raising hay to feed those cattle and a garden to feed the residents. The creek on the property where these biosolids were proposed to be used flows through our property downstream of that one. Needless to say, we were very concerned about what runoff would do as that is a source of drinking water for our cattle and wildlife. Many of our neighbors use well water and we were concerned about contamination of their drinking water. The more we researched about PFAS, the more concerned we became. Then we heard about the case in Johnson County, where farmers' land is probably ruined for use in the way we use ours for many years to come. If you look at the nationwide reports of farms that have been destroyed by use of PFAS, cattle that have died, products that have been contaminated, you see that this is a very real danger for our environment and for humans. The recent legislation passed at the federal level to set an acceptable level of PFAS in water is just the very beginning of what we must do to protect our soil, domestic animals, wildlife, crops and people. As our cities grow larger and larger and encroach into rural land, the amount of rural land available to provide food crops for all of our citizens is decreased yearly. If we allow the use of these products to contaminate some of that land, we put ourselves in a very dangerous situation as a nation. I urged that the Texas legislature passes any and all legislation needed to immediately stop not only the use of biosolids containing PFAS, but also allowing PFAS to be released into our water sources through manufacturing and to limit the manufacturer of goods which contain PFAS. There are European countries who have attacked this problem by ending PFAS at the source – in manufacturing. There are already plenty of these harmful chemicals, floating around in our water, and our land, and our animals, and even in our bodies. I urge our legislature to act to stop the continued poisoning of our environment by these harmful chemicals

Amie Cheek, Mrs.
Self
Hillsboro, TX

I recently experienced sewage sludge being spread in a field just yards from my home. The wind blew the noxious smell straight into my home. The birds that enjoy our yard left for days. We could not walk outside for gagging the Oder was so strong. My lungs hurt and my children complained of headaches and sore throats. This practice of putting raw sewage on farming fields must be stopped. There is evidence of this harming the environment and it doesn't take a scientist to know this is harming humans and animals. Why must we always have to get sick before people stop practices that cause harm? No representatives in my area would come to my home because they knew they couldn't sit there and smell the toxic fumes. They field next to me cuts hay for livestock. How do you think we have outbreaks of ecoli in foods? It's when fecal matter gets into the plants. No one wants to consume food products that have been grown in biowaste that contains everything from feces to women's menstrual blood, urine and vomit, as well as all medications people consume. Please don't let this practice harm us. I am not against our farmers. They are the backbone of our food source. I have two adult daughter that majored in agriculture at TAMU. This is not proven to be safe by unbiased scientific research. We must not incentivize farmers to take on this practice. Many farmers I know from my rural community know this is not good and it's putting farmers at odds with each other. Consumers don't know if their food is grown in biosolids and if you ask them if they are willing to consume foods grown in waste they would tell you know. I will not be feeding my livestock any hay products grown with sewage sludge and many others feel the same. Farmers are sneaking this practice past consumers and this is just one more toxin that makes Americans sick. Please end this. Do not allow sewage sludge on our land and in our foods! Thank you

Mike White, Precinct Chair

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I oppose bio sludge in Ellis County Texas

Karen Yandell

The citizens of Johnson Co.

Cleburne, TX

This bill hits so close to my family. My son passed from cancer and I have many friends and family with health issues. This needs banned for sale everywhere. Please help out our community and loved ones.