



July 30, 2018

RE: Removing the Requirement for Airport Use of Fluorinated Firefighting Foams

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris:

The California Airports Council supports the ability of airports to transition to the use of firefighting foams that do not contain fluorinated chemicals that can be harmful to the environment and have negative health impacts on people. The California Airports Council is comprised of the 32 commercial airports in California, accounting for almost 180 million passengers annually.

Currently, the Federal Aviation Administration utilizes a standard for commercial airport firefighting foam that is only satisfied by foams containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS chemicals have been found to be potent toxicants linked to cancer, liver and thyroid damage, developmental impacts, and numerous other adverse health effects. Fluorinated firefighting foams have been identified as a significant source of groundwater and surface water contamination near military and civilian airports across the United States. The use of fluorinated foams serve to compound aviation accidents with the addition of environmental mitigation challenges and potential human exposure.

The California Airports Council supports the amendment to Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018 offered by Representative Dan Kildee which eliminates the requirement for fluorinated chemicals in firefighting foams. Instead, the proposed amendment allows airports to use firefighting foams that meet a strong performance-based standard to maintain fire safety.

Sustainability is a major priority for California airports and significant progress has been made to electrify, reduce emissions and water usage, manage storm water runoff, along with more comprehensive waste management and recycling. Converting to non-fluorinated firefighting foam products is consistent with these long-term sustainability and environmental mitigation goals. We urge you to consider supporting Representative Kildee's amendment to allow airports the flexibility to use less toxic foam alternatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Lites'.

Jim Lites
Executive Director

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