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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) ***supports* 378 - AN ACT CONCERNING A PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES BACKGROUND DATA STUDY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

Several municipalities have discovered PFAS contamination in soil and water on municipal properties and surrounding areas. As the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) undertakes additional testing in areas that are likely to be contaminated with PFAS, such as landfills, fire training facilities, and certain manufacturing sites, more municipalities will be faced with the need to address PFAS contamination in their communities.

Last year, the [Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force](#) provided an update on efforts to implement the state's [PFAS Action Plan](#). The Action Plan is focused on strategies to 1) minimize environmental exposure to PFAS for Connecticut residents; 2) minimize future releases of PFAS to the environment; and 3) identify, assess and cleanup historic releases of PFAS to the environment.

Given increasing concerns regarding the health effects of PFAS, the state must continue to focus on eliminating sources of PFAS in the environment, testing for PFAS, and remediating areas contaminated with PFAS. Unfortunately, testing and remediating for PFAS is very expensive. Although DEEP has assisted some municipalities in testing and remediating PFAS contamination, there is inadequate funding available to make any meaningful progress in this area.

A background data study, as outlined under SB-387, will help inform efforts to test for and remediate PFAS, positioning the state to take another positive step forward in addressing PFAS contamination to protect the health and safety of residents.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.