The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Governor’s Office  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

Re: SB 1044 (Allen) Firefighting equipment and foam: PFAS chemicals  
City of Beverly Hills – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of SB 1044 (Allen) and respectfully request you SIGN this bill when it comes before your desk. This bill would prohibit the use of firefighting foam containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) chemicals, except where federally required, and requires notification of the presence of PFAS in the protective equipment of firefighters.

Firefighting foam accounts for a significant amount of the total global production of PFAS, which can move through soil, seep into groundwater, or be carried through the air, and is linked to cancers and other health issues. Elevated levels of PFAS chemicals have been also been documented in the bodies of firefighters. According to one biomonitoring study of firefighters in California, blood concentrations of PFAS chemicals in firefighters were three times higher than in a National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) of adult males, revealing that firefighters may have sources of occupational exposure to PFAS chemicals.

SB 1044 (Allen) will encourage the use of available PFAS-free firefighting foams, by curbing the manufacturing, sale, and use of class B firefighting foam that contains PFAS chemicals and by imposing civil penalties on those that violate the requirements of this measure. This bill will protect everyday Californians and firefighters from unnecessary exposure to these harmful chemicals while moving the state towards available, affordable, and effective alternatives. Beverly Hills is known as a healthy city. As such, we consistently strive to improve the health of our residents, employees, and the environment. SB 1044 (Allen) aligns with this philosophy of Beverly Hills as it will both increase the safety of our groundwater and improve the health of our firefighters.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to SUPPORT SB 1044 (Allen). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange