



**California
Catholic
Conference**

5960 S Land Park Dr #240 | Sacramento, California 95822
T: (916) 313-4000 | F: (916) 313-4066
www.CAcatholic.org

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1012 O Street, Room 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1313 (McNerney) Drinking water: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Dear Chair Blakespear and Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee,

The California Catholic Conference **SUPPORTS SB 1313** (McNerney) as amended on 4/6/26. This bill would provide funding to address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances in drinking water.

Every Californian should enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards. PFAS substances continue to be used in a broad range of industrial processes and in manufacturing products because of the water-and-stain-resistant, nonstick surfactant which creates cumulative health burdens. Funding for the infrastructure to treat PFAS in water supplies promotes investments for small or disadvantaged communities and makes an important contribution to those communities to help them create a cleaner environment.

Pope Francis declared in his Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, “access to safe clean drinking water is a basic and universal human right” essential for human survival and dignity. Water should not be an instrument of suffering for anyone, especially marginalized member of society. “Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.”

For those reasons as the official public policy voice for the Catholic Church of California, we request that you vote “AYE” on SB 1313. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Linda Wanner, Director for Social Justice & Environmental Stewardship at 916.208.4462.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Domingo".

Kathleen Domingo
Executive Director

KD:LW:mip