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REI Community > Co-op Members > Co-op Questions > Submit your questions for REI's Annual Member Meet...

Topic options :

Submit your questions for REI's Annual Member Meeting on May 16, 2022

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Why did it take so long to shift toward free shipping for members (regardless of the \$50 threshold)?

JoeH Happy Camper

4 weeks ago

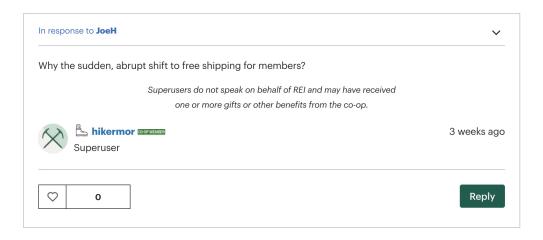
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The biggest question that myself (as a REI member) – and more than 110,000 REI customers – have for REI CEO Eric Artz is:

When will REI ban PFAS "forever chemicals" in the products it sells?

PFAS in outdoor gear continues to be a growing concern. Over the last few months, REI members and customers have <u>signed</u> petitions and sent e-mails to REI CEO Eric Artz and the board demanding action on the PFAS crisis. Recent testing identified PFAS chemicals in popular <u>REI brand jackets</u>, including chemicals banned for manufacture in the United States and European Union.

And just two weeks ago, NRDC, Fashion FWD, and U.S. PIRG Education Fund released a new <u>scorecard</u> ranking 30 top retail and outdoor apparel brands on their policies to address PFAS. While REI competitor Patagonia earned a 'B,' the highest grade of all the outdoor apparel brands surveyed, REI earned an 'F.' If other major outdoor brands like Patagonia and <u>Keen</u> can take action on PFAS, surely REI can too.

So far, REI has not meaningfully responded to the growing calls for leadership on the PFAS public health crisis. REI has taken some small steps, but we expect them to meet or beat Patagonia's commitment. REI recently released its 2021 annual impact report, which included no new initiatives to address the growing PFAS crisis. For a company with such a strong commitment to sustainability and the outdoors, it is surprising the co-op has yet to take sufficient action to address chemicals that have polluted drinking water and even breast milk and that are contributing to climate change.

The company is <u>proud to say</u> that "REI is a different kind of company. As a co-op, we put purpose before profits and act in the long-term interests of our members and community." It's time the company put that purpose into action. Surely selling products that leave behind a toxic trail of <u>PFAS pollution</u> is not in the long-term interests of its members, communities, or the environment.

With great market power comes great responsibility. REI recently announced it brought in a whopping \$3.7 billion in revenue for 2021, an <u>increase of 36% compared to 2020</u> and a record for the company. REI has a responsibility to leverage that market power to drive PFAS out of the products it sells.

With REI's member meeting coming up, REI must respond to the calls for action from its customers, members, and more than 100 local, state, and national environmental and public health groups that are urging REI to lead the outdoor apparel industry away from PFAS.

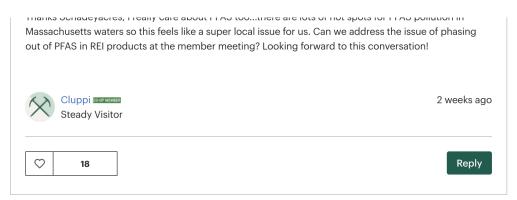
As a values-driven co-op, will REI heed the call for change at its upcoming member meeting?

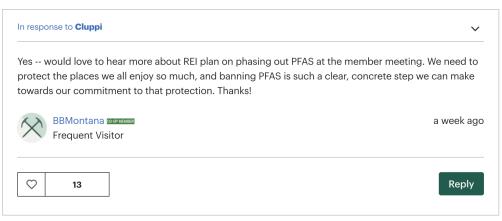


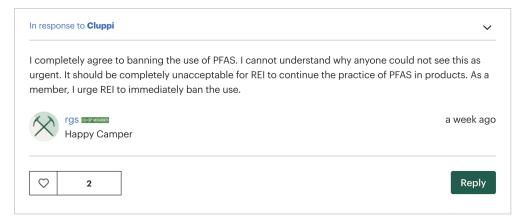
2 weeks ago

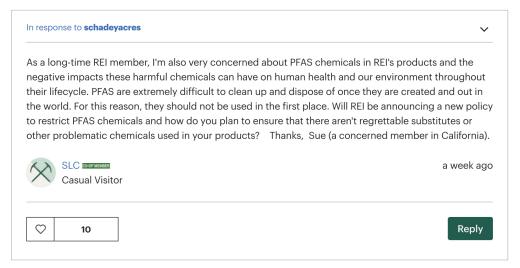
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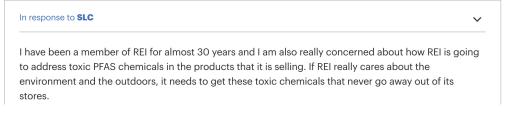
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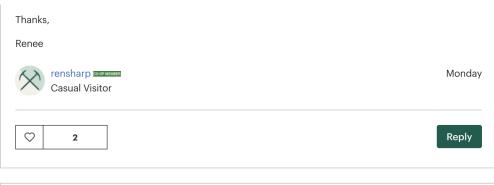


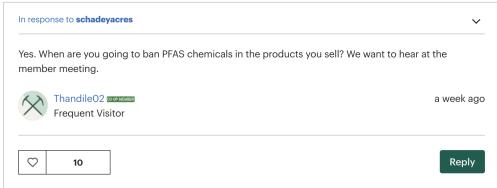














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4 weeks ago



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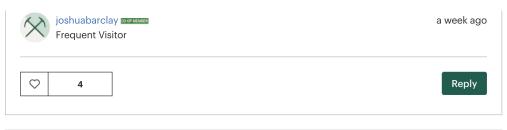
In response to **schadeyacres**

PFAS in outdoor gear is my #1 concern, and the reason that I stopped shopping at REI this year is that my multiple questions to REI staff about PFAS in products were met by confused looks and no follow up. I demand that REI (who I used to think was a leader in environmental causes) take action to stop ALL PFAS in outdoor gear. Many retailers have already taken action; why is REI so late to act on this? I'm still a member, but won't be for long if REI continues to dodge doing the right thing.

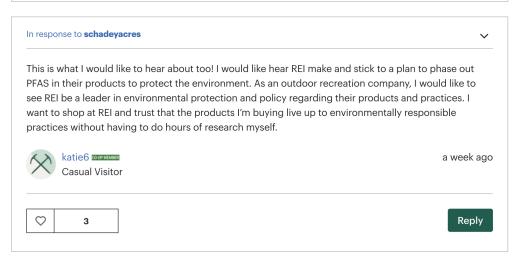
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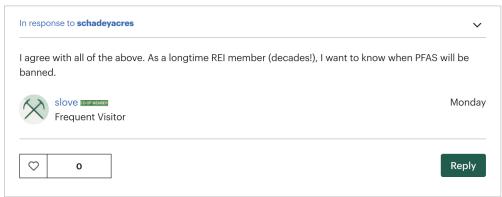
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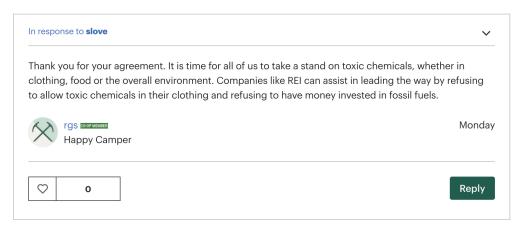
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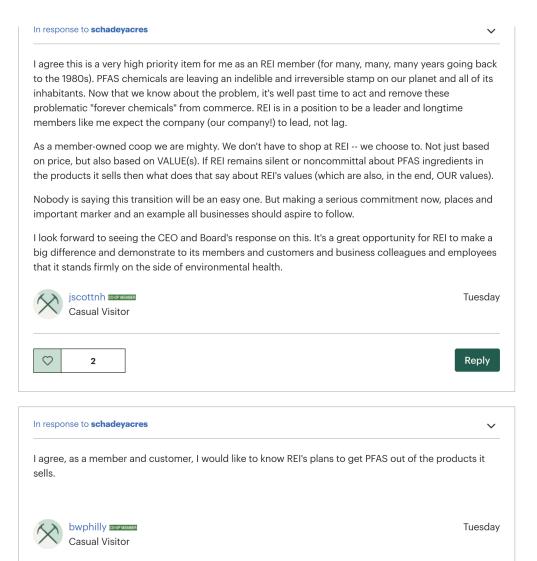


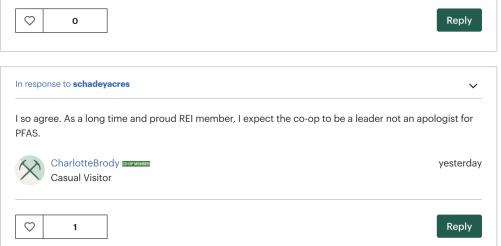


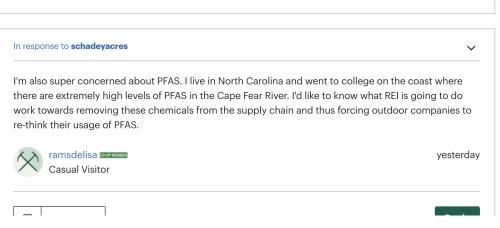


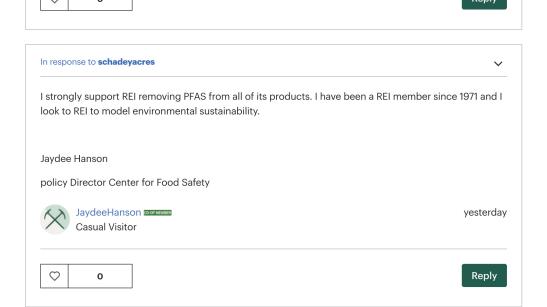












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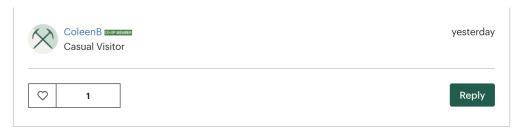
In response to schadeyacres

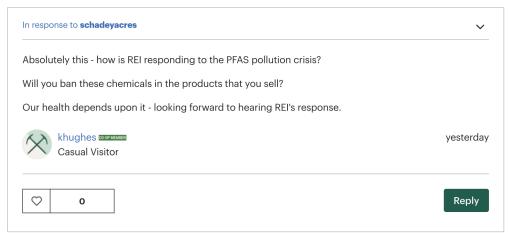
I agree with this - when will REI phase out ALL PFAS products, not just a select few. Be a leader in the industry, reflect your - OUR - values. Listen to your members. As a member for well over a decade, this is important to me, it's clearly important to a lot of other members judging by the comments just on this page and it's important to the general public. For us to be able to truly enjoy the outdoors and have the ability to pass on that love to future generations, we need to do everything in our power to ensure that the outdoors is still around, clean and healthy. This is one step to do that. Phase out ALL PFAS products.

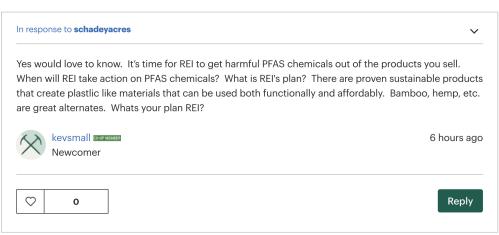
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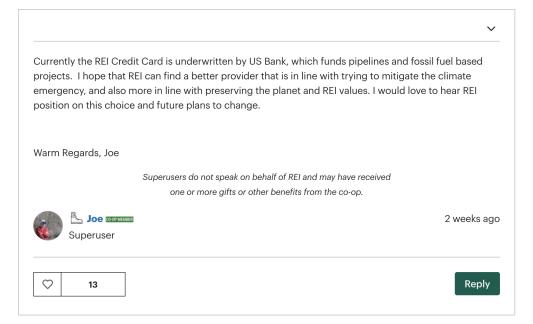
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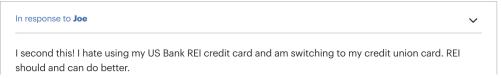
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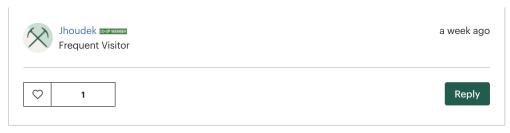


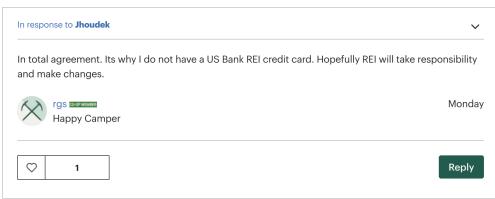


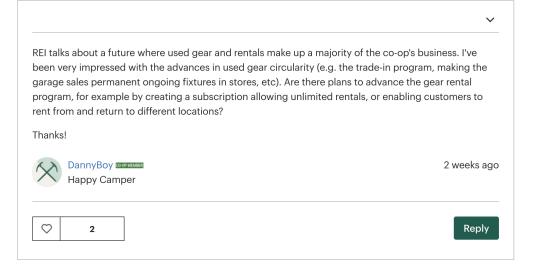


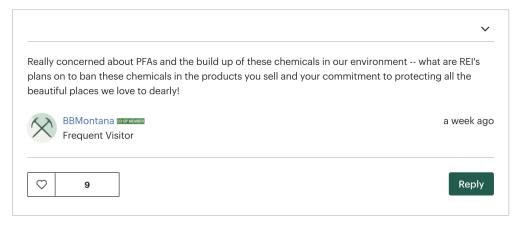






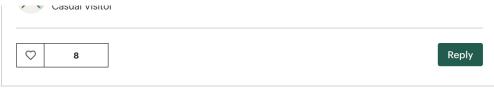


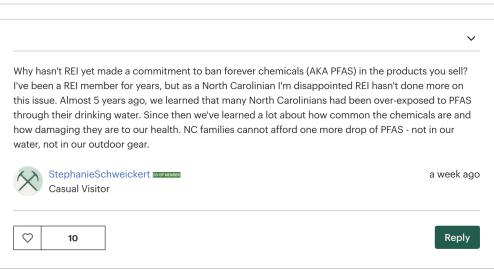




As a longtime REI member, I'm concerned by the company's continued reliance on dangerous PFAS that not only pose a threat to human health, but also persist in the environment. I'm not just a concerned member, but also a resident of the Pacific NW where I rely heavily on rain gear to keep me dry and comfy, yet these are the products that are often made with PFAS. The good news is some companies have found safer alternatives to make rain gear that's just as effective in my climate. Until REI stops using PFAS, I will have to be going elsewhere for my outdoor gear.









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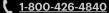




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Please address REI's plans for phasing out PFAS from the products it sells. Other outdoor apparel brands and companies are already doing this. REI's silence on this issue so far is surprising and disappointing. I want to know that the products I buy at REI are not polluting the environment or the communities where these products are made!

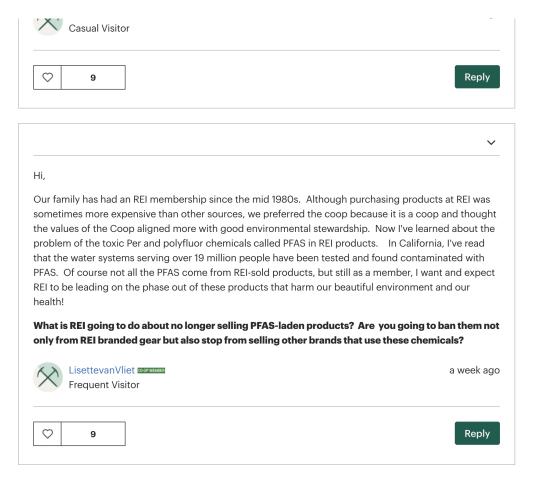
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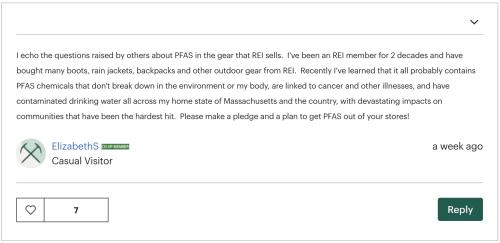
a week ago

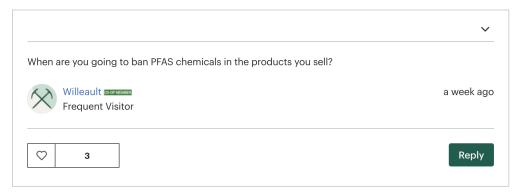
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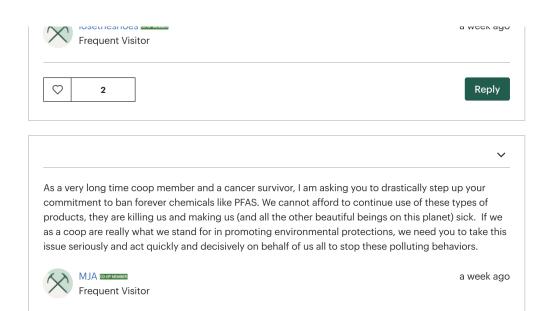
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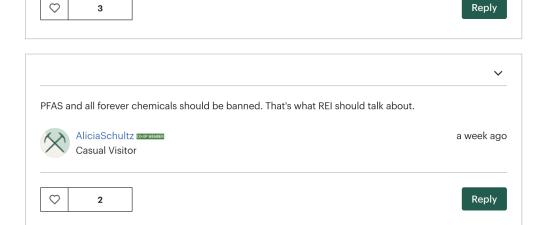


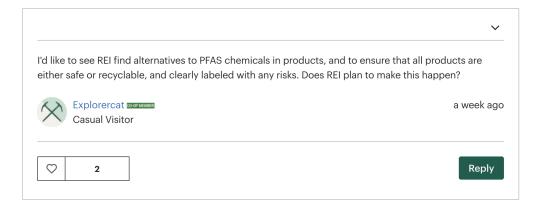




When are you going to ban PFAS chemicals in the products you sell? They pollute our environment and our bodies.







I am a longtime REI member and I encourage REI to take action on PFAS at the upcoming board meeting.

This member urges REI to address the PFAS issue directly in this meeting and urges a commitment in keeping with their commitment to "put purpose before profits and act in the long-term interests of our members and community."

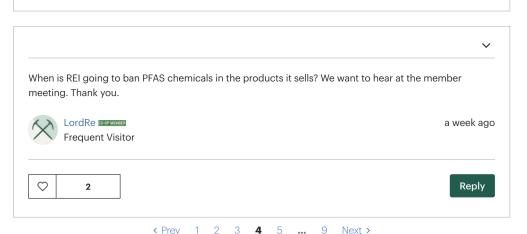
The bottom line: PFAS has very serious environmental health impacts, contaminates our water, builds up in our bodies and in breast milk. REI is uniquely positioned to take on this issue, act in our long-term interest and join Patagonia in phasing out PFAS in outdoor gear.



a week ago



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When will REI stop using PFAS chemicals in your products? It is well past time. These harmful chemicals have no place in our clothing and camp gear. Please address this important issue at the meeting.

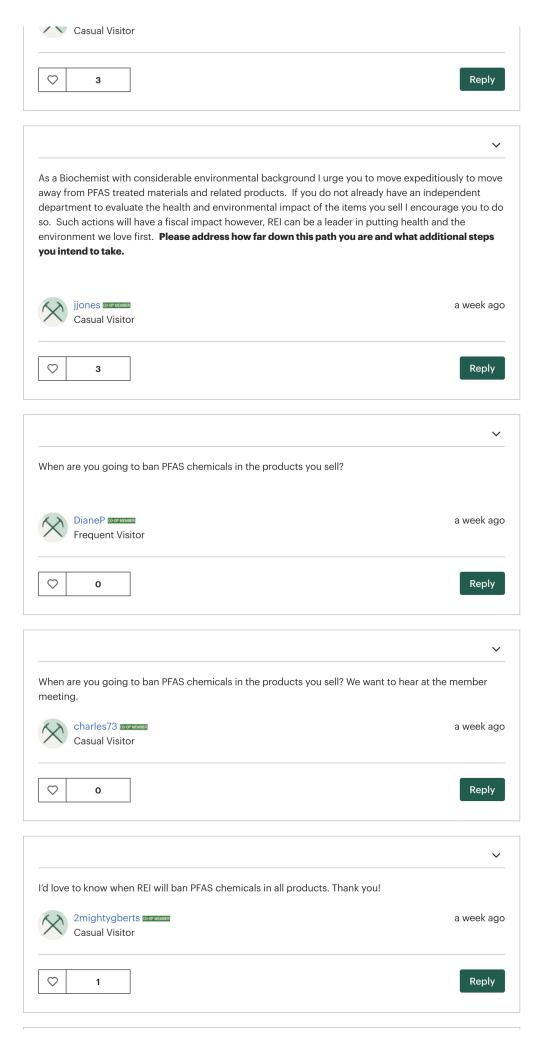


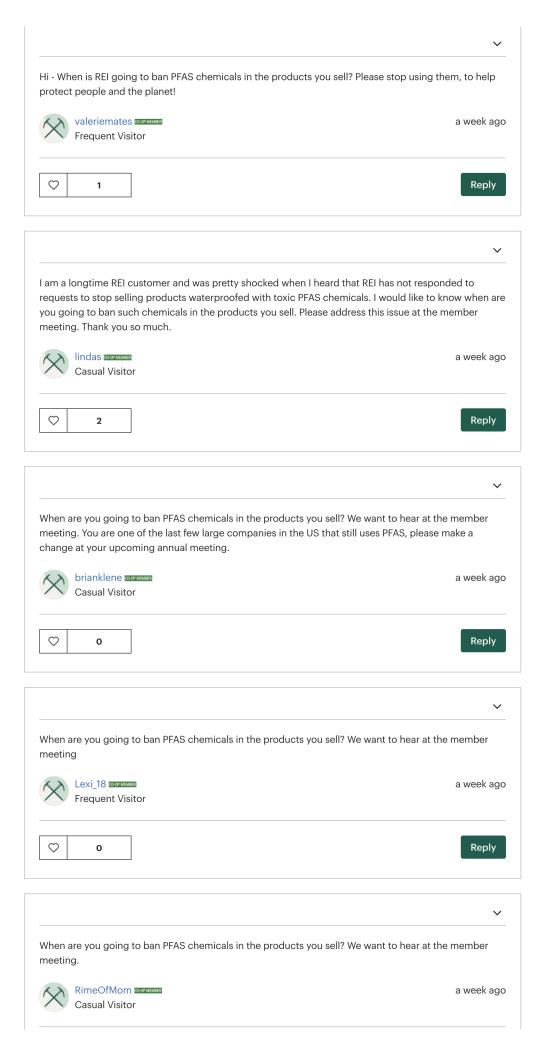
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Topic options

Submit your questions for REI's Annual Member Meeting on May 16, 2022

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4 weeks ago



Reply

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84 Replies

Sort: Threaded ~

When are you going to stop using PFAS chemicals in the products you sell?

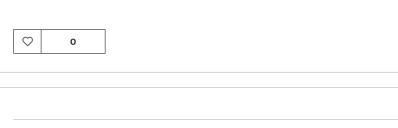
dustyskis Casual Visitor

a week ago

Start a Conversation

Other boards in this category

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It seems as though it is time for REI to address the PFAS issue. Based on information that I have received, this product can and does cause issues for environments when it is exposed to them by people wearing garments which have been treated with them. They may also be a potential risk to the wearer themselves. What does REI know about the potentially detrimental effects of these products, and what action do they plan to take to deal with these potentially problematic effects?



a week ago

Reply



Reply

I have been shopping at REI since I was a teenager. I was flabbergasted to see that REI got such a bad grade for failing to address the PFAS crisis. See https://www.wral.com/report-finds-major-retail-apparel-brands-use-dangerous-chemicals-called-pfas/20... and https://www.nrdc.org/media/2022/220406. I recently learned from a report from an environmental group that there are PFAS in my drinking water where I live. Obviously, I am wondering where that came from, but to learn that a company as great as REI is still using PFAS in its gear and refusing to commit to getting rid of these toxic forever chemicals is really disappointing.

I always thought that REI was ahead of other companies since we're a coop and our members care about the environment. I worry when I read about PFAS on Mount Everest and in every one of our bodies. How come other brands like Patagonia have been able to make the commitment to stop using PFAS and our coop has not? It makes me wonder why I keep shopping at REI. Please commit now to stopping the use of these toxic forever chemicals. Thank you!



a week ago



Reply

Why hasn't REI removed PFAs from it's products? For a company that prides itself on empowering people to be outside, it's shameful that you continue to use chemicals that have been proven to be toxic and are impossible to clean up.

It's past time for REI to be a leader in eliminating PFAS from all products manufactured and/or sold.

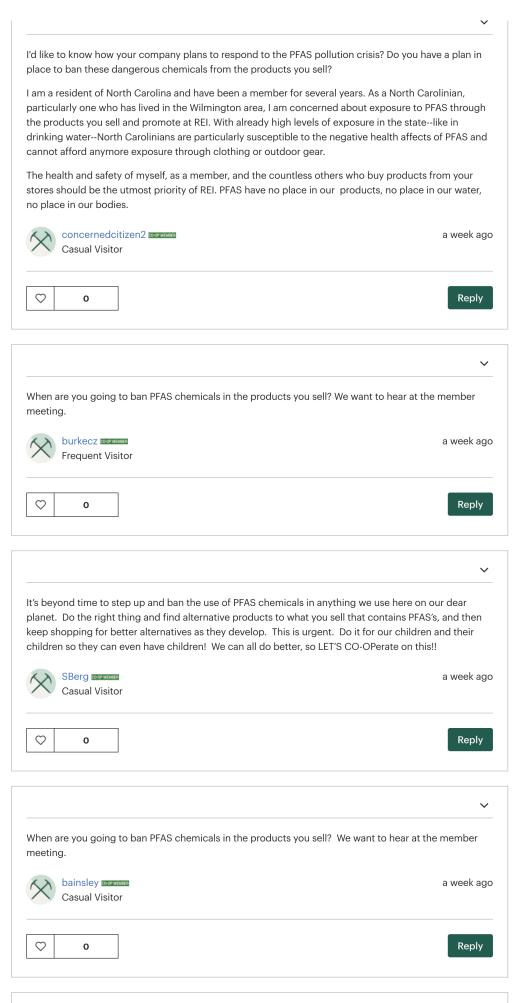
I have been a member since 1986, and this is the first time I've been embarrassed to be a member. I cannot in good conscience continue to be a member as long as you continue to sell products with these toxic "forever chemicals". The hypocrisy for me to do so, when I am actively working to pass legislation that eliminates PFAS from products produced and sold in my state (MN) is too much for me to bear.



a week ago



Reply



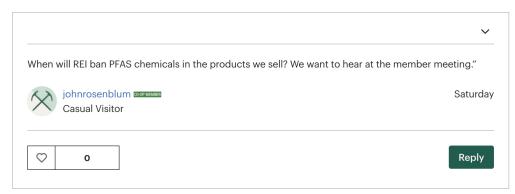
I am excited to have our first REI store in Maine and to become a member of REI. Mainers love to spend time outdoors. Physical activity and being in nature is so important to our physical and mental health.

I am writing to ask REI to get PFAS chemicals out of your products to protect people and the environment.

Working with people with learning, attention and developmental disabilities, I know first-hand the harm toxic chemicals can have on children's brain health. One class of chemicals I am concerned about is PFAS chemicals. Studies now show that PFAS chemicals may affect learning and behavior in infants and children, in addition to links to certain cancers, immune issues, high cholesterol and other health concerns. PFAS are nicknamed "forever chemicals" because they don't break down. Nearly every person in the US, including newborns, have PFAS in their bodies.

These chemicals should not be in people or in our environment, but they are commonly used to make outdoor gear and other products water-resistant. In Maine, we have found PFAS in our water, our soil, in cow's milk, and even in our deer (which resulted in a deer advisory to not eat deer in the Fairfield area). Please take action on PFAS now to protect all families, farmers, wildlife, and the environment. Thank you.





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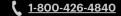




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4 weeks ago



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I want to know when REI will respond to the PFAs pollution crisis. When does REI plan to ban these chemicals from products? This is something I'm passionate about as an NC college student, as are others on my campus. As a concerned member of REI, I don't think PFAs have a place in products or our bodies.

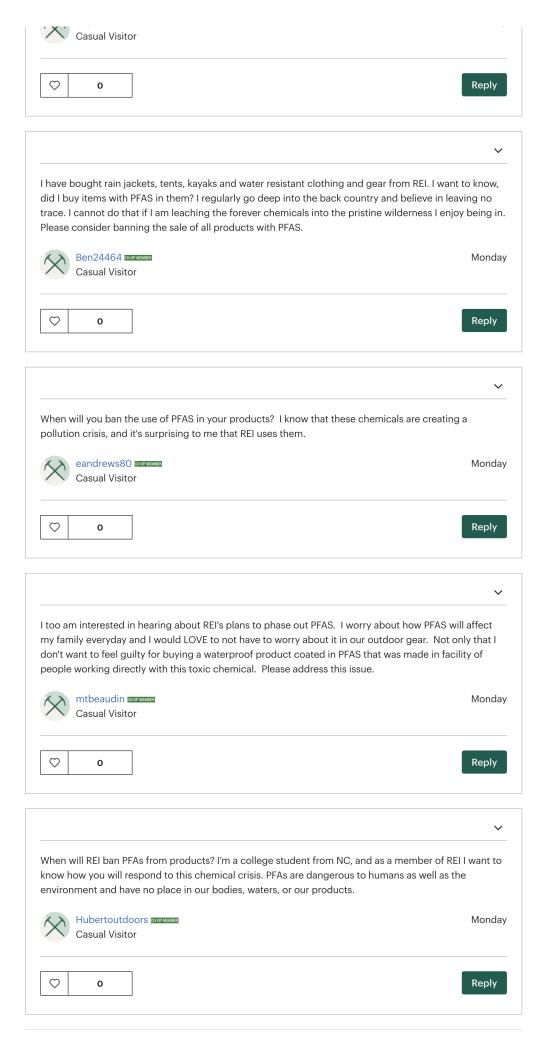


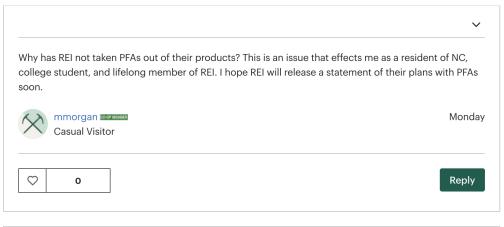
Monday

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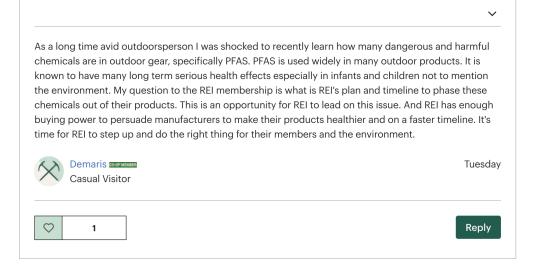


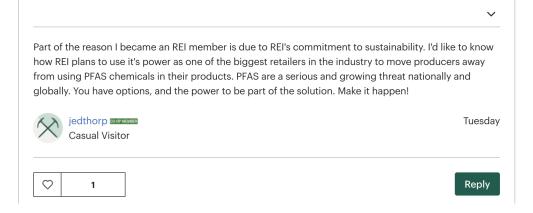


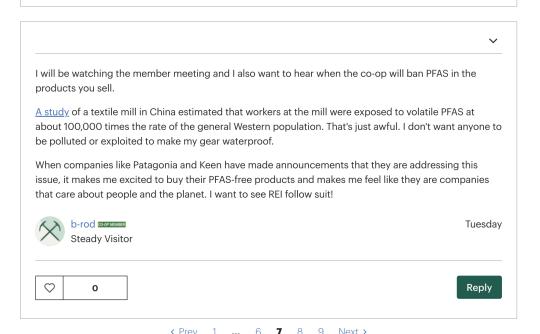
hello - I've been a member of REI for many years. I also live in Ann Arbor Michigan where there is a REI store, and where PFAS have contaminated the river that runs through town. The state has issued a Do Not Eat the Fish advisory, so we cannot even eat the local fish. I know REI is not directly responsible for my river being contaminated with PFAS, but it would be amazing if REI took a stand and showed support for doing something about PFAS that contaminates rivers all over the country. Like not using PFAS in the first place to make the clothes and shoes it sells. It makes sense because REI customers care so much about the environment, and REI is active in my community. Please consider banning PFAS in all your products!

Tuesday

Tuesday







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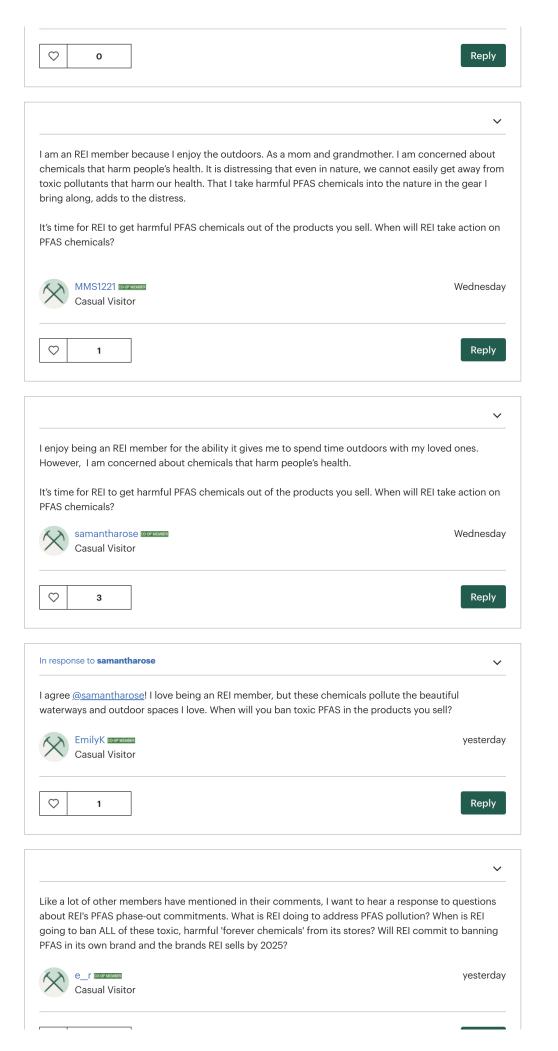


Tuesday

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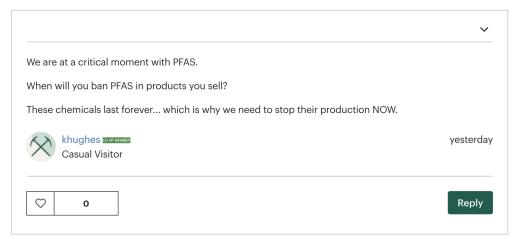


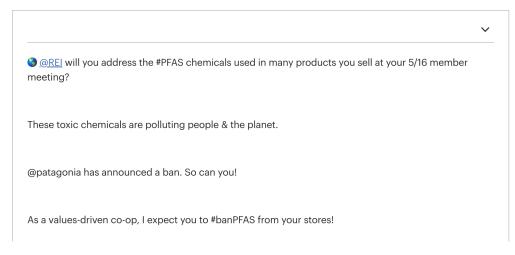
Reply

We have been REI members for over 2 decades and I'm shocked that REI hasn't been a leader on PFAS forever chemicals given its commitment to the environment and its members. These incredibly toxic and persistent chemicals have no place in REI stores. Will REI be announcing a new time bound, measurable policy to restrict PFAS chemicals at its annual meeting and how does the company plan to ensure that there aren't regrettable substitutes or other problematic chemicals used in its products in future? Thanks and please be the leader members believe REI is.

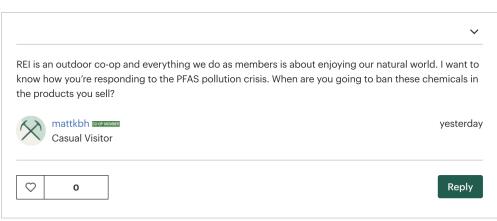












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I've been a member since the 1980's. I've always appreciated the care REI takes in conservation, preservation, and advocacy for the environment. This is one of the major reasons I am a member.

I am concerned about PFAS chemicals. I understand that used in many products - everything from Teflon pans, insolation, to clothing. I also know that they do not break down in the environment, they don't decompose, and therefore have earned the name forever chemicals. Of course, they are very

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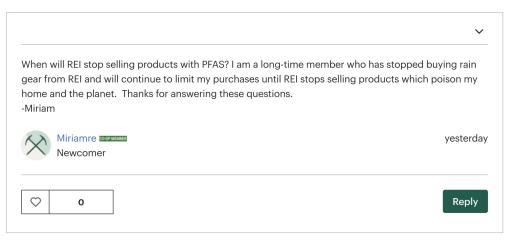
harmful to the environment and to health - human and otherwise.

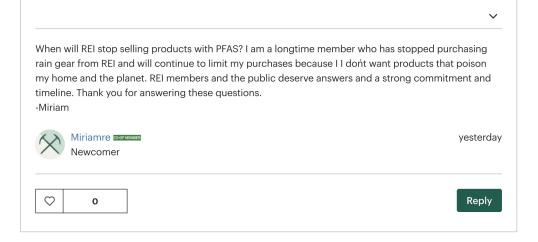
I trust that, as advocates for the good ecological stewardship, REI will do everything in your power to discontinue the use of PFAS chemicals in REI products. Beyond that, I expect you will pressure the companies whose products you sell to cease using PFAS in their products and will advocate with government agencies to regulate against the further use of PFAS.

Of course, I also realize that REI is a coop; as such I am part of the REI community and not simply a customer. So when I ask you to act, I am asking you to act on my part, on my behalf.

I realize that there will likely be cost and even performance implications with discontinuing the use of PFAS, but quiet honestly, the cost of continuing to use them is too high; any diminishment of performance is little consequence compared to the long-term health of the planet and its inhabitants. In the end, this is an ethical issue. I trust you, working on members' behalf, will do the right thing and eliminate PFAS from the products you sell.



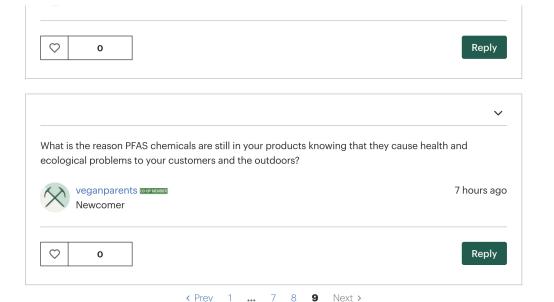




As you know PFAS "forever chemicals" are polluting communities across the United States. **When will REI join other industry leaders in phasing out the use of PFAS chemicals in your products?** Taking this step would help set a market signal that the health and safety of our communities is a priority to REI and its customers.

As as a long-time customer and parent who cares deeply about the future well-being of my community, I urge you to take this step in 2022. Thank you!





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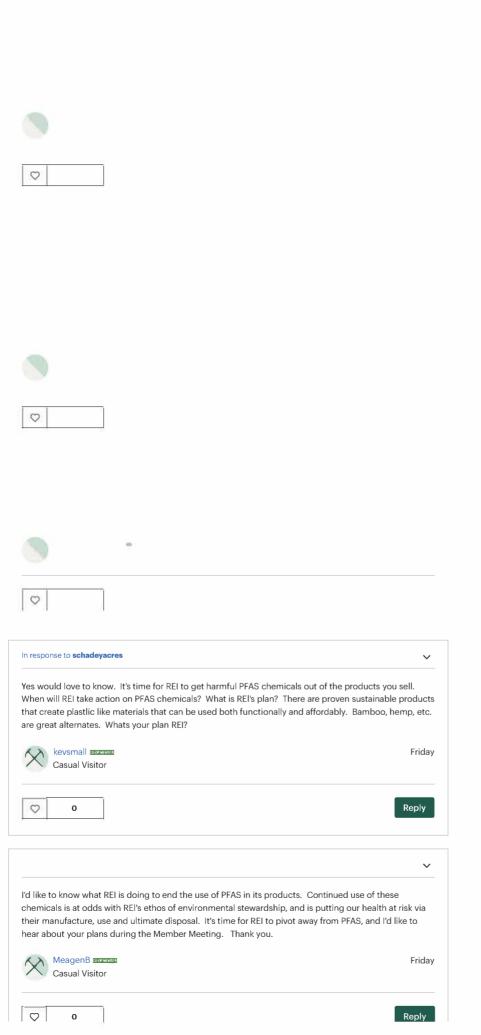


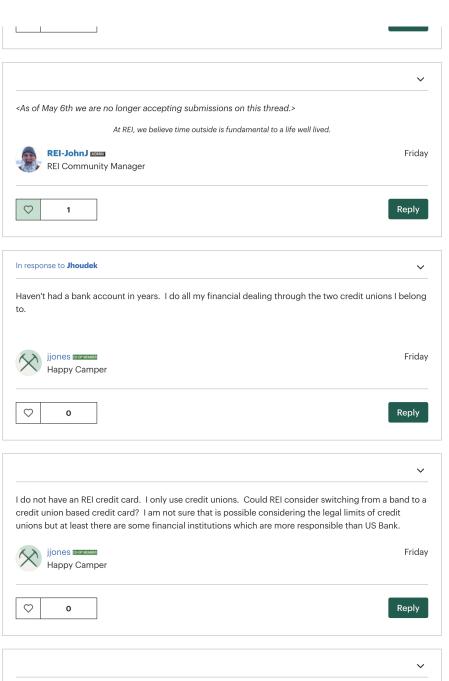


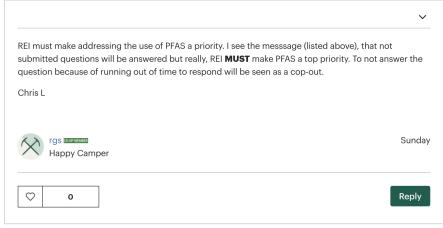












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