

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4325

To establish a task force to address the impacts of the chemical 6PPD and its byproduct 6PPD-Q on coho salmon and the environment and to promote research and funding opportunities for an alternative to 6PPD, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 16 (legislative day, APRIL 14), 2026

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To establish a task force to address the impacts of the chemical 6PPD and its byproduct 6PPD-Q on coho salmon and the environment and to promote research and funding opportunities for an alternative to 6PPD, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “6PPD Task Force
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) 6PPD.—The term “6PPD” means the
2 chemical compound N-(1,3-dimethylbutyl)-N’- 11
3 phenyl-p-phenylenediamine.

4 (2) 6PPD-Q.—The term “6PPD-Q” means
5 6PPD-quinone.

6 (3) TASK FORCE.—The term “Task Force”
7 means the 6PPD Task Force established pursuant
8 to section 4(a).

9 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

10 Congress finds that—

11 (1) 6PPD is a chemical commonly used in all
12 motor vehicle tires, military vehicle tires, and air-
13 craft tires, contributing to passenger safety by pre-
14 venting tires from degrading quickly and ensuring
15 tire durability;

16 (2) as 6PPD in tires reacts with oxygen or
17 ozone in the environment, 6PPD breaks down and
18 transforms into compounds, including 6PPD-Q;

19 (3) stormwater runoff may cause tire and road
20 wear particles containing 6PPD-Q to wash into
21 streams, rivers, and other bodies of water that are
22 habitats for aquatic species, such as Pacific salmon;

23 (4) 6PPD-Q from stormwater runoff is acutely
24 toxic to adult and juvenile coho salmon
25 (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*);

1 (5) private-sector efforts exist in the United
 2 States to develop, while also prioritizing motor vehi-
 3 cle passenger safety and environmental impacts, po-
 4 tential alternatives to 6PPD that will not—

5 (A) transform into 6PPD-Q and enter into
 6 waterways, where 6PPD-Q may lead to coho
 7 salmon mortality; or

8 (B) harm other wildlife species or people;

9 (6) finding a 6PPD alternative has national se-
 10 curity, domestic supply chain, and environmental
 11 and human health implications and must be ad-
 12 dressed in a timely manner; and

13 (7) efforts to replace 6PPD must ensure contin-
 14 ued compliance with vehicle safety and performance
 15 standards critical to passenger and public safety.

16 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF 6PPD TASK FORCE.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
 18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
 19 Transportation, in consultation with the Administrator of
 20 the Environmental Protection Agency, shall, to the extent
 21 practicable, enter into an agreement with the National
 22 Academy of Sciences pursuant to which the National
 23 Academy of Sciences shall establish a task force, to be
 24 known as the “6PPD Task Force”.

25 (b) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

1 (1) improve data and information sharing for
2 research into an alternative to 6PPD among Federal
3 agencies, research institutions, and State, Tribal,
4 and local governments for the purposes of—

5 (A) identifying the potential impacts of
6 6PPD on coho salmon, other aquatic species,
7 human health, and the environment; and

8 (B) mitigating the adverse effects of 6PPD
9 on water quality, human health, and the envi-
10 ronment;

11 (2) identify and recommend Federal funding
12 opportunities to researchers, institutions of higher
13 education, State, Tribal, and local governments, tire
14 manufacturers, chemical suppliers, tire additive
15 manufacturers, and other entities—

16 (A) to study the potential impacts of
17 6PPD, related compounds, and their degrada-
18 tion products, including 6PPD-Q, on Pacific
19 salmon, other economically or ecologically valu-
20 able aquatic species, and human health; and

21 (B) to develop an alternative chemical to
22 6PPD, including scientific validation and scale-
23 up activities to commercialize 6PPD alter-
24 natives;

(3) identify and include in the annual report required under subsection (g)—

(A) recommendations for expediting the identification, toxicity, and performance testing of safer alternatives to 6PPD; and

(B) opportunities to encourage the adoption of safer alternatives to 6PPD in tires available on the market;

(4) share with Federal agencies, research institutions, and State, Tribal, and local governments best practices, techniques, methodologies, and cost estimates for 6PPD mitigation efforts, including street sweeping and stormwater runoff treatment;

(5) identify and provide research to Federal agencies, research institutions, and State, Tribal, and local governments regarding pathways not related to motor vehicle tires through which 6PPD exposure occurs, including exposure to 6PPD through—

(A) reuse of tires, including for artificial turf;

(B) playground materials;

(C) artificial reefs;

(D) underwater tire piles; and

(E) other rubber materials; and

(6) share funding information, technical assistance, yearly reports, and resources in an online repository accessible to—

(A) Indian Tribes;

(B) State departments of transportation;

(C) metropolitan planning organizations;

(D) State and local governments;

(E) tire manufacturers;

(F) chemical suppliers;

(G) tire additive manufacturers;

(H) institutions of higher education; and

(I) the public.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) A designee of the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) A designee of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) A designee of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(4) A designee of the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(5) A designee of the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(6) A designee of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

1 (7) A designee of the Director of the National
2 Institutes of Health.

3 (8) A designee of the Director of the Centers
4 for Disease Control and Prevention.

5 (9) Not fewer than 4 representatives from Trib-
6 al governments located on the western coast of the
7 United States with current knowledge of 6PPD im-
8 pacts on coho salmon, who shall be appointed by the
9 National Academy of Sciences with consideration
10 given to differences in regional perspectives and ex-
11 periences.

12 (10) Not fewer than 4 representatives from the
13 private sector, who shall be appointed by the Na-
14 tional Academy of Sciences, including—

15 (A) 2 representatives from the tire manu-
16 facturing industry; and

17 (B) 2 representatives from the tire chem-
18 ical additive manufacturing industry.

19 (11) Not fewer than 1 representative from the
20 environmental community, who shall be appointed by
21 the National Academy of Sciences.

22 (12) Not fewer than 2 representatives with ex-
23 pertise in environmental and public health from
24 State government agencies with active 6PPD mitiga-
25 tion programs or that have documented 6PPD run-

1 off impacts on aquatic species, who shall be ap-
2 pointed by the National Academy of Sciences from
3 not fewer than 2 different States.

4 (13) Not fewer than 1 representative from a
5 university research institution with experience re-
6 searching 6PPD and aquatic toxicology, who shall be
7 appointed by the National Academy of Sciences.

8 (d) CO-CHAIRS.—The members described in para-
9 graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c) shall serve as the Co-
10 Chairs of the Task Force.

11 (e) MEETINGS.—The Task Force shall meet not less
12 than 3 times annually.

13 (f) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACCA.—Chapter 10 of title
14 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Fed-
15 eral Advisory Committee Act”), shall not apply to the
16 Task Force.

17 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
18 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
19 Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Environ-
20 ment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees
21 on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and
22 Commerce of the House of Representatives, and make
23 publicly available, a report that includes—

24 (1) the findings and recommendations of the
25 Task Force; and

- 1 (2) a list of stakeholders and industry experts
- 2 consulted by the Task Force.

