



June 22, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
Subcommittee Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis
Subcommittee Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Subcommittee Chair Duckworth, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Lummis:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to pass legislation to protect Americans' drinking water from the class of toxic chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Every American should feel confident that the water coming out of our taps is both clean and safe. Unfortunately, the [drinking water of millions of Americans](#) across the nation is contaminated by PFAS, which are linked to cancer and other severe [illnesses](#).

PFAS don't break down in the environment, earning them the nickname "forever chemicals." Due to their widespread use in everything from non-stick pans to firefighting foam, these toxic chemicals can now be found almost everywhere across our country. In addition to contamination from manufacturing sites and products, the U.S. Department of Defense has already [identified nearly 700 military bases across the country](#) with known or potential PFAS contamination — and the number of contaminated sites continues to grow, endangering nearby communities. Research links PFAS exposure in humans to cancer, immune system deficiencies, high cholesterol and low fertility, and even developmental issues in children and infants. Moreover, the [health impacts of PFAS](#) are magnified because the chemicals persist in the environment indefinitely and many of them accumulate in the food chain.

In short, allowing the widespread use of toxic chemicals that last forever virtually guarantees that our sources of drinking water will become contaminated. That's why we're urging Congress to act now – to move our economy from PFAS to safer alternatives and to strictly limit exposures and health damage as long as these chemicals remain in our environment.

Specifically, such legislation should include the following provisions:

- Prohibit the use of PFAS in firefighting foam
- Designate all PFAS as "hazardous substances" under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Direct EPA to Issue drinking water standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act for all PFAS within two years
- Direct EPA to complete its effluent limitation guidelines for PFAS, which based on available technology should effectively end the dumping of these toxic chemicals into our waterways, within two years.

While the above provisions are the most critical to protecting America's drinking water from PFAS contamination, Congress can and should also direct EPA to take additional steps in a timely manner, including:

- Require testing of all PFAS for toxicity to human health under the Toxic Substances Control Act within four years
- Investigate methods and means to prevent GenX (a newer type of PFAS) contamination of surface waters
- Establish a school PFAS testing and filtration grant program within one year
- Require covered manufacturers of PFAS to submit reference standards to EPA within six months
- Designate PFOA and PFOS as "hazardous air pollutants" pursuant to the Clean Air Act within six months and determine if other PFAS should be added within five years
- Establish PFAS-related testing and pre-treatment requirements for the land application or distribution of bio-solids (e.g., sludge or sludge-derived compost) within four years.

For too many communities all across America, PFAS and its harmful effects were something residents learned about only after discovering that their drinking water had been contaminated for years or after experiencing serious PFAS-related health issues. PFAS contamination impacts all 50 states, so we urge Congress to come together to agree on a comprehensive solution that will work to protect the whole nation. To that end, we call on Congress to ensure that no more American communities need suffer the impacts of these toxic forever chemicals by passing legislation that implements the above reforms to turn off the tap on toxic PFAS pollution as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Alabama Rivers Alliance - Birmingham, Alabama

LDA of Alabama - Montgomery, Alabama
Tennessee Riverkeeper - Decatur, Alabama
Gustavus PFAS Action Coalition - Gustavus, Alaska
Arizona Climate Action Coalition - Phoenix, Arizona
Moms Clean Air Force Arizona Chapter - Phoenix, Arizona
Mothers for Safe Air Safe Water Force Tucson - Tucson, Arizona
Arkansas Community Organizations - Little Rock, Arkansas
Buffalo River Watershed Alliance - Jasper, Arkansas
7th Generation Advisors - Los Angeles, California
CalPIRG - Sacramento, California
Environment California - Los Angeles, California
Russian Riverkeeper - Healdsburg, California
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility - San Francisco, California
Environment America - Denver, Colorado
Moms Clean Air Force Colorado Chapter - Denver, Colorado
U.S. PIRG - Denver, Colorado
Farmington River Watershed Association - Simsbury, Connecticut
Park Watershed - Hartford, Connecticut
Pequabuck River Watershed Association - Bristol, Connecticut
Windsor Climate Action - Windsor, Connecticut
Fight for Zero, Inc. - Cocoa, Florida
Waterway Advocates - Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light - Decatur, Georgia
Georgia River Network - Atlanta, Georgia
Moms Clean Air Force Georgia Chapter - Atlanta, Georgia
Science for Georgia, Inc. - Atlanta, Georgia
Environment Illinois - Chicago, Illinois
Illinois PIRG - Chicago, Illinois
Environment Iowa - Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Iowa PIRG - Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Moms Clean Air Force Iowa Chapter - Kellogg, Iowa
Environment Maryland - Baltimore, Maryland
Gunpowder Riverkeeper - Monkton, Maryland
Maryland PIRG - Baltimore, Maryland
Waterkeepers Chesapeake - Takoma Park, Maryland
Duxbury Safe Water Committee, Inc - Duxbury, Massachusetts
Environment Massachusetts - Boston, Massachusetts
MassPIRG - Boston, Massachusetts
Massachusetts River Alliance - Cambridge, Massachusetts
Mystic River Watershed Association - Arlington, Massachusetts
Seaside Sustainability, Inc. - Gloucester, Massachusetts
Ecology Center - Ann Arbor, Michigan
Huron River Watershed Council - Ann Arbor, Michigan
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan - Grand Rapids, Michigan
Michigan Environmental Council - Lansing, Michigan

National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center - Ann Arbor, Michigan
NOW Need Our Water - Oscoda, Michigan
Rotary Club of Oscoda - Oscoda, Michigan
West Michigan Environmental Action Council - Grand Rapids, Michigan
Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water - Merrimack, New Hampshire
Testing for Pease - Portsmouth, New Hampshire
NY/NJ Baykeeper - Hazlet, New Jersey
Moms Clean Air Force New Mexico Chapter - Albuquerque, New Mexico
Catawba Riverkeeper - McAdenville, North Carolina
Clean Cape Fear- Wilmington, North Carolina
MountainTrue - Asheville, North Carolina
NC Child - Raleigh, North Carolina
Sound Rivers - Raleigh/New Bern/Washington, North Carolina
Toxic Free NC - Durham, North Carolina
Environment Oregon - Portland, Oregon
Grand Riverkeeper - Miami, Oklahoma
LEAD Agency, Inc. - Vinita, Oklahoma
Tar Creekkeeper - Vinita, Oklahoma
Oregonizers - Keizer, Oregon
OSPIRG - Portland, Oregon
Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water - Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Moms Clean Air Force Pennsylvania Chapter - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
United Sludge Free Alliance - Kempton, Pennsylvania
Environment Rhode Island - Providence, Rhode Island
Congaree Riverkeeper - Columbia, South Carolina
SC Idle No More, SCIAC - Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission - Columbia, South Carolina
Protect Our Aquifer - Memphis, Tennessee
Vermonters for a Clean Environment - Danby, Vermont
Vermont Natural Resources Council - Montpelier, Vermont
Wild Virginia - Charlottesville, Virginia
RE Sources - Bellingham, Washington
Zero Waste Washington - Seattle, Washington
Moms Clean Air Force West Virginia Chapter - Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Clean Water Action Council of NE WI - Green Bay, Wisconsin
Milwaukee Riverkeeper - Milwaukee, Wisconsin