

January 19, 2023

Chair Brenda Mallory  
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality  
730 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Chair Mallory:

The undersigned organizations strongly urge the Biden administration to propose standards to protect drinking water from ‘forever chemicals’ known as PFAS, as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The administration promised to propose standards for PFOA and PFOS, two widespread and harmful PFAS chemicals, by the “Fall 2022” but has missed the deadline.

Further delay in setting protective standards for PFOA and PFOS is unwarranted and unacceptable. These ‘forever chemicals’ have circulated in the environment for decades, and as many as 200 million Americans could have unsafe levels of PFOA and PFOS in their drinking water. EPA’s own assessments show that PFAS are toxic at very low levels and have been linked to serious health problems, including [increased risk of cancer](#) and harm to the [reproductive](#) and [immune](#) systems. EPA’s recently revised Health Advisory Levels for PFAS in drinking water indicate that some negative health effects may occur with concentrations of PFOA or PFOS that are well below one part per trillion.

SDWA standards are a crucial line of defense against PFAS exposure. While the Biden administration has proposed steps to make polluters pay for past contamination and announced plans for future controls on PFAS discharges “upstream,” these ‘forever chemicals’ will continue to pose unacceptable risks to water supplies for decades. At a minimum, EPA must establish protective, enforceable limits on PFOA and PFOS in tap water. EPA should also consider requiring the use of water treatment technologies to reduce not only PFOA and PFOS, but a wide range of other harmful PFAS as well. Technologies are available to effectively reduce PFAS and improve drinking water safety. In its formal determination to regulate PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, the EPA stated that it “is committing to making regulatory determinations in advance of the next SDWA deadline for additional PFAS,” and we urge the agency to move forward expeditiously with regulating additional PFAS and controlling the full class of PFAS in tap water.

We strongly support the Biden administration’s efforts to tackle PFAS. However, the delay in proposing SDWA standards for PFAS leaves millions of people at risk and threatens to derail the President’s promise to protect drinking water for all Americans. We urge EPA to protect our nation’s drinking water supplies, and the health of impacted communities nationwide, from the threat of PFAS contamination without further delay.

Sincerely,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
Azul

Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP)  
Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water  
California Communities Against Toxics  
California Environmental Voters  
Cease Fire Campaign  
Center for Environmental Health  
Center for Public Environmental Oversight  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB)  
Clean Cape Fear  
Clean Water Action  
Clearya  
Community Action Works  
Community Water Center  
Concerned Citizens for Clean Drinking Water  
Conservation Alabama  
Consumer Reports  
Defend Our Health  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
Democracy Green  
EarthJustice  
Ecology Center  
Environment America Research & Policy Center  
Environmental Advocates NY  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Justice Task Force Tucson  
Environmental Working Group  
Fairfield Water Concerned Citizens  
Fight for Zero  
Freshwater Future  
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network  
Green Science Policy Institute  
GreenLatinos  
Groundwork Elizabeth  
HCDNNJ  
HealthLink  
Healthy Schools Now (NJ)  
Highland Dairy  
Hip Hop Caucus  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Hispanic Federation  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Isles, Inc  
League of Conservation Voters

Learning Disabilities Association of Alabama  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas  
Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia  
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine  
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan  
Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota  
Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey  
Learning Disabilities Association of New York  
Learning Disabilities Association of Oklahoma  
Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania  
Learning Disabilities Association of South Carolina  
Learning Disabilities Association of Utah  
Learning Disabilities Association of Virginia  
Learning Disabilities Association of West Virginia  
Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin  
Linda S. Birnbaum - Scientist Emeritus and Former Director, NIEHS and NTP  
Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition  
Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water  
Michigan League of Conservation Voters  
Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Moms for a Nontoxic New York  
Move Past Plastic, MPP  
Nantucket PFAS Action Group  
National PFAS Contamination Coalition  
National Stewardship Action Council  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NC League of Conservation Voters  
Need Our Water (NOW)  
Newburgh Clean Water Project  
NIEHS/NTP and Duke University  
NJ Work Environment Council  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Peconic Baykeeper  
PfoaProject NY  
Safer States  
Save Our Water (SOH2O)  
SC Idle No More, SCIAC  
Seaside Sustainability  
Seneca Lake Guardian  
Seventh Generation  
Sierra Club  
Slingshot

Songbird Farm  
Testing for Pease  
The Green Majority  
Three Rivers Waterkeeper  
United Sludge Free Alliance  
Virginia League of Conservation Voters  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
Waterway Advocates  
Wisconsin Green Muslims  
Women's Voices for the Earth  
Your Turnout Gear and PFOA  
Zero Waste Washington

**Identical letter sent to Administrator Michael Regan, Environmental Protection Agency, and  
Director Shalanda Young, Office of Management and Budget**