

January 19, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young,

The 103 undersigned organizations strongly urge the Biden administration to propose standards to protect drinking water from the toxic “forever chemicals” known as PFAS, as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, or SDWA. The administration promised to propose standards for PFOA and PFOS, two of the most widespread and harmful PFAS chemicals, by fall 2022 but 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. The 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. The EPA’s recently revised Health Advisory Levels for PFAS in drinking water show 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. Although the Biden administration has proposed steps to make polluters pay for past contamination and announced plans for future controls on PFAS discharges upstream, these chemicals will continue to pose unacceptable risks to water supplies for decades. At a minimum, the EPA must set protective, enforceable limits on PFOA and PFOS in tap water. The agency should also consider requiring the use of water treatment technologies to reduce not only PFOA and PFOS but also a wide range of other harmful PFAS. It is possible to reduce PFAS and improve drinking water safety. In its formal determination to regulate PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, the EPA stated 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 the 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
DWO
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
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 Chair Brenda Mallory, Council on Environmental Quality, and Administrator Michael Regan, Environmental Protection Agency