

July 27, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden:

We urge the Biden administration to move swiftly to designate PFOA and PFOS, the two most studied “forever chemicals,” as hazardous substances under CERCLA, better known as the Superfund law.

In October 2021, you announced “accelerated efforts” across the government to tackle PFAS, including plans to propose PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances. Your announcement reaffirmed your campaign pledge, in *The Biden Plan to Secure Environmental Justice and Equitable Economic Opportunity*, to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances, recognizing the contamination crisis caused by decades of unregulated releases of these toxic chemicals.

PFAS pollution threatens thousands of communities – including, but not limited to, low-income and communities of color -- who through no fault of their own are confronting health effects and costs of clean up. But the administration has yet to propose designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances. Further delay will pose unacceptable, continued risks to communities across the country.

As you know, the designation of a substance as hazardous does not ban its use, and many such chemicals remain in commerce and are widely used in commercial products. However, coupled with other broad-based actions needed to tackle additional PFAS, the designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances is an important first step toward helping the EPA hold polluters accountable, encouraging more responsible stewardship, and accelerating efforts to clean up contaminated sites.

We are grateful for your commitment and efforts to address PFAS. We urge you to fulfill this commitment by designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances without delay.

Respectfully,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
American Association for Justice
American Rivers
American Sustainable Business Network
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water
Center for Environmental Health
Children's Environmental Health Network
Clean Cape Fear
Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund
Clearya
Climate Crisis Policy
Climate Justice Alliance
Congaree Riverkeeper
Consumer Reports
Defend Our Health
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Earthjustice
Ecology Center
Endangered Species Coalition
Endocrine Society
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Health Project
Environmental Justice Task Force Tucson
Environmental Protection Network
Environmental Working Group
Fountain Valley Clean Water Coalition
Freshwater Future
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network
GreenLatinos

Green Science Policy Institute
Greenpeace USA
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition
Healthy Babies Bright Futures
Highland Dairy
Hispanic Access Foundation
Hispanic Federation
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health
League of Conservation Voters
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition
Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Military Poisons
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Moms for a Nontoxic New York
National Center for Health Research
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Need Our Water (NOW)
Newburgh Clean Water Project
Oregon Environmental Council
Pearl Riverkeeper
Peconic Baykeeper
PfoaProject NY
SC Idle No More/SC Indian Affairs Commission
Linda S. Birnbaum, Scientist Emeritus and Former Director, NIEHS and NTP
Seneca Lake Guardian
Seventh Generation
Sierra Club
Slingshot

Southern Environmental Law Center
Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
Taproot Earth
Testing for Pease
The Forbes Funds
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Toxic-Free Future
Union of Concerned Scientists
Vermont Conservation Voters
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Waterkeeper Alliance
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
We the People of Detroit
West Michigan Environmental Action Council
Westfield Residents Advocating For Themselves (WRAFT)
Wisdom Institute
Women for a Healthy Environment
Women's Voices for the Earth
Zero Waste Washington