

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We write to express our concern with EPA’s announcement to reconsider key elements of the April 2024 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) rule establishing national, legally enforceable drinking water standards for several per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Your decision to keep the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS — two of the most toxic PFAS — is critical, but we are concerned about the delayed implementation of those MCLs, roll back of limits on four other PFAS, and reconsideration of the rule’s approach to mixtures.¹

This decision threatens to undermine the SDWA’s core purpose, which is to provide communities with clean and safe drinking water. Delaying or weakening the rule will prolong harmful exposure and exacerbate the damage caused by decades of PFAS pollution. As of 2025, EPA data indicates that approximately 165 million Americans have drinking water contaminated with PFAS, and recent CDC data confirms that almost all of the U.S. population have detectable levels of PFAS in their blood.^{[2][3]}

Every community across the country faces the real consequences of contamination. These forever chemicals persist in our environment and failing to act will only compound the public health crisis. Rolling back MCLs and weakening the mixtures provision risk not only more exposure and illness but also increased legal and regulatory uncertainty, undermining confidence in EPA’s commitment to public health.

After years of studying health impacts and the presence of PFAS in drinking water, EPA promulgated SDWA regulations not only for PFOA and PFOS, but also for HFPO-DA, PFNA,

¹ “EPA Announces It Will Keep Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFOA, PFOS.” Environmental Protection Agency. 14 May 2025. Retrieved from: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-it-will-keep-maximum-contaminant-levels-pfoa-pfos>.

² “New EPA data shows 165M people exposed to ‘forever chemicals’ in U.S. drinking water.” Environmental Working Group. 12 Jun. 2025. Retrieved from: <https://www.ewg.org/news-insights/news-release/2025/06/new-epa-data-shows-165m-people-exposed-forever-chemicals-us>.

³ “Fast Facts: PFAS in the U.S. Population.” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 12 Nov. 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/data-research/facts-stats/index.html>.

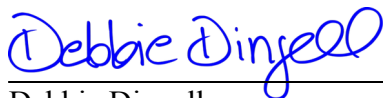
PFHxS, PFNA, and PFBS.⁴ The extensive scientific literature EPA studied shows that the other four PFAS elicit adverse effects on development, to the liver and kidney, and the reproductive and immune systems, among others.⁵ EPA also decided to set a hazard index standard for mixtures of PFHxS, HFPO-DA, PFNA, and PFBS after determining that those PFAS are dose-additive and that these mixtures are likely to occur together in drinking water.⁶ EPA's plan to rescind the standards for those other PFAS and the hazard index will prolong Americans' exposure to dangerous drinking water and flies in the face of EPA's own scientific and safety determinations.

We support EPA's decision to maintain the standards for PFOS and PFOA, but delaying implementation would threaten the health of Americans and run afoul of SDWA's statutory requirements. Under SDWA, after EPA sets a new drinking water standard, the standard must come into effect within five years, therefore postponing implementation of the 2024 standards until 2031 would violate this requirement.⁷

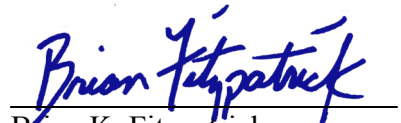
EPA's 2024 PFAS drinking water rule marked a historic step forward. Communities have waited decades for action. We urge EPA to stay the course, implement the existing enforceable limits for all six regulated PFAS, and maintain its commitment to safeguarding the health of every American.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress

⁴ Respondents' Proof Brief at 3, 8-14 (Dec. 23, 2024), Case No. 24-1188 (D.C. Cir.).

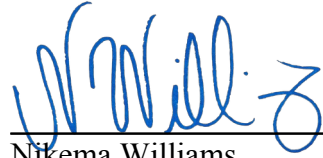
⁵ *Id.* at 9-12.

⁶ *Id.* at 12-13.

⁷ 42 U.S.C. § 300g-1(b)(10).



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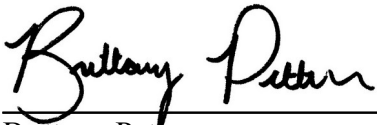
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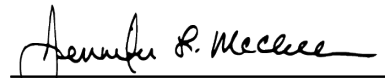
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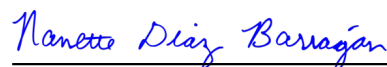
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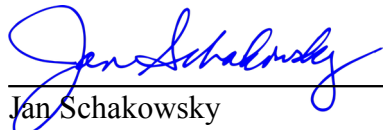
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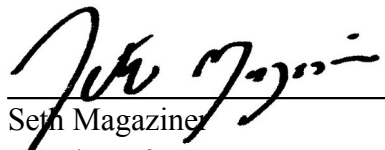
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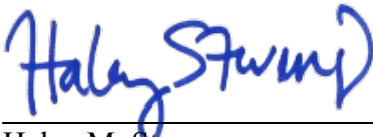
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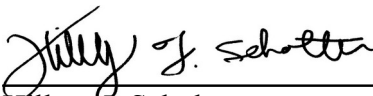
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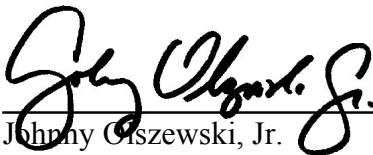
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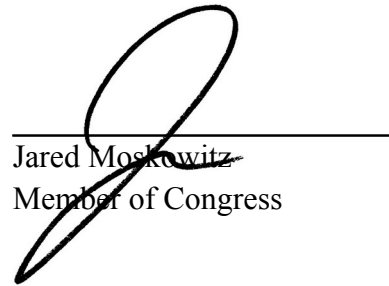
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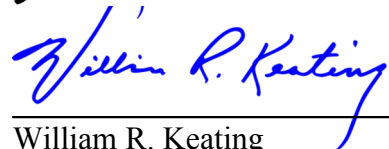
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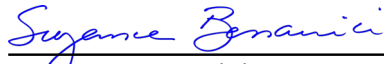
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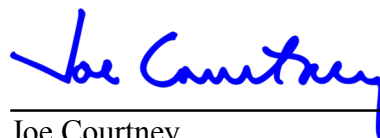
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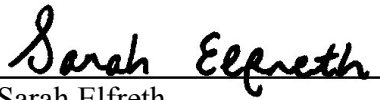
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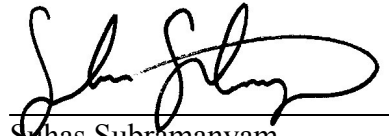
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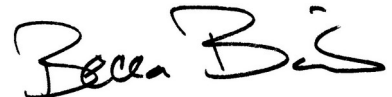
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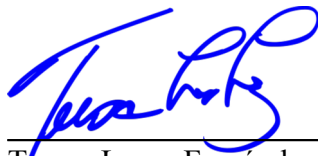
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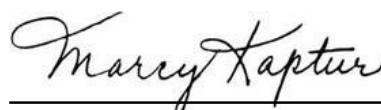
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