

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we write to express our strong support for the inclusion of necessary and comprehensive clean-up provisions to address harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that continues to contaminate military bases, surrounding communities, and our environment and drinking water nationwide.

We thank you for your leadership and your efforts to include PFAS specific provisions in the FY2020 NDAA, but significant and decisive action is still needed.

Since the enactment of last year's defense authorization, the number of confirmed PFAS contamination sites at active or closed military installations has increased from 401 to 651 nationwide according to a new assessment from the Department of Defense (DOD).¹ The Environmental Working Group has also separately identified 328 military sites with known PFAS contamination, as of April 2020.²

The House took bold, bipartisan action in January to meet the PFAS contamination crisis head-on by passing H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act, in a 247-159 vote. The vote included a strong showing of support from 24 Republican members representing districts in Michigan, California, Washington, Texas, Florida, New York, North Carolina, West Virginia, New Jersey, Arkansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

The PFAS Action Act is a landmark bill that includes a comprehensive package of provisions led by many of our House colleagues and assembled through regular order in the Energy and Commerce Committee. And we continue to collectively work hard to advance and enact this important bill. Among the many good provisions, the foundation of this bill is aimed at accelerating PFAS contamination clean-up for the most harmful chemicals and limiting human

¹ Department of Defense. (2019). *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Task Force Progress Report March 2020*. P. 6. Retrieved from https://media.defense.gov/2020/Mar/13/2002264440/-1/-1/1/PFAS_Task_Force_Progress_Report_March_2020.pdf

² Environmental Working Group. (April 2020). *Interactive Map: Military Sites with Known and Suspected Discharges of PFAS*. Retrieved from <https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/2019-pfas-crash-training-military-sites-March2020/map/>

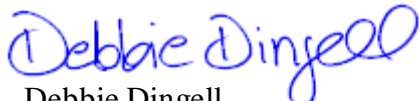
exposure to PFAS by establishing a national drinking water standard and by limiting industrial PFAS emissions and pollution into the air, water, and soil.

In particular, the PFAS Action Act would require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to list PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund Program), and to determine whether to list other PFAS as hazardous substances within five years. In addition to PFOA and PFOS, PFHxS, PFHpA, PFHxA, PFDA, and PFNA are commonly found at DOD installations and pose many of the same health risks. The highest detection recorded at a DOD installation is for PFHxS—not PFOA and PFOS—and studies suggest that PFHxS causes liver damage, reduces the effectiveness of vaccines, and increases the risk of early menopause and osteoporosis. PFHxS, PFBS, PFHxA, and PFNA have all been subject to specific state limitations, and PFHpA and PFDA have included into the “Sum of PFAS” maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) set by two states.

We urge you and every member of the House Armed Services Committee take this crisis seriously and ensure strong provisions on PFAS clean-up are included in any final FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act. Thank you for all that you do each year to keep our nation’s defenses strong to safeguard the American people and care for our servicemembers and their families in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Your attention to this important matter is appreciated and we stand ready to work with you throughout this process to find bipartisan solutions to the critical human health and environmental challenges PFAS contamination poses to us all.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Call for Strong PFAS Clean-up Provisions in FY2021 NDAA

List of Signatories

May 26, 2020

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan	Gerald E. Connolly	Grace F. Napolitano
Gwen Moore	Sean Casten	Mike Quigley
<i>Brian Fitzpatrick</i>	Katie Porter	Andy Levin
Madeleine Dean	Peter Welch	Brenda L. Lawrence
Eleanor Holmes Norton	A. Donald McEachin	Albio Sires
Ro Khanna	Scott Peters	Raja Krishnamoorthi
Joe Neguse	James P. McGovern	Suzanne Bonamici
Steve Cohen	Mary Gay Scanlon	Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Bobby L. Rush	Julia Brownley	Judy Chu
Pramila Jayapal	Anna G. Eshoo	<i>Bill Posey</i>
Tom Malinowski	Katherine Clark	Jared Huffman
Nanette Diaz Barragán	Darren Soto	Tim Ryan
Nydia M. Velázquez	Antonio Delgado	Joseph D. Morelle
Jamie Raskin	John P. Sarbanes	David Price
Bill Foster	Jerry McNerney	Betty McCollum
Barbara Lee	Matthew Cartwright	Sheila Jackson Lee
Bonnie Watson Coleman	Jan Schakowsky	Deb Haaland
Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.	Paul D. Tonko	Juan Vargas
Earl Blumenauer	Josh Gottheimer	Chellie Pingree
Kathy Castor	John Yarmuth	<i>Peter T. King</i>
Elaine G. Luria	Robert C. “Bobby” Scott	<i>Fred Upton</i>
Sean Patrick Maloney	Ben Ray Luján	<i>David Rouzer</i>
Richard E. Neal	Daniel T. Kildee	Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Tony Cárdenas	Peter A. DeFazio	Ann Kirkpatrick
Denny Heck	David Trone	Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Sheila Jackson Lee	David Cicilline	Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Bennie G. Thompson	Mikie Sherrill	Lucille Roybal-Allard
Debbie Wasserman Schultz	TJ Cox	Jahana Hayes
Rashida Tlaib	Elissa Slotkin	Marcy Kaptur
Harley Rouda	Haley M. Stevens	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell	Brian Higgins	Gregory W. Meeks
Raúl M. Grijalva	Alcee L. Hastings	Eddie Bernice Johnson
Linda T. Sánchez	Mike Thompson	C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Alan Lowenthal	Jesús G. “Chuy” García	Susan Wild
Thomas R. Suozzi	Tulsi Gabbard	Mark Pocan
Adriano Espaillat	André Carson	Grace Meng
	Derek Kilmer	Ted Lieu
	Josh Harder	
	Kathleen M. Rice	