

October 6, 2021

Sent via Email

Administrator Michael Regan
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
Regan.Michael@epa.gov

Dear Administrator Regan:

Thank you for making a commitment to aggressively address per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

On behalf of our members, partners, and community advocates across the country, we urge you to include strong commitments to curb industrial releases of the toxic “forever chemicals” known as PFAS in the upcoming PFAS Road Map being developed by the EPA. Our groups are on record strongly supporting the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act of 2021, a bill that would establish deadlines for EPA to determine how to address industrial discharges of PFAS under the Clean Water Act, which was included the bipartisan PFAS Action Act of 2021 and PFAS Action Act of 2020 as well as H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act, which have all passed the House.

As you know, PFAS are a family of over 5,000 synthetic compounds used in a variety of industrial processes and consumer products from non-stick cookware to stain-resistant coatings and grease-proof packaging. Often referred to as “forever chemicals,” PFAS chemicals are extremely persistent in the environment and the human body, and many have been linked at very low doses to serious health harms, including cancer, damage to the reproductive and immune system, reducing the efficacy of vaccines, and thyroid and kidney disease.

According to recent [analysis](#), nearly 30,000 industrial facilities could be discharging PFAS into the air and water. Industrial discharges of PFAS waste threaten the drinking water for millions of Americans, including vulnerable communities in Latino, low-income, rural and [environmental justice](#) communities who are already overburdened by pollution. While some states like [Michigan](#) have taken steps to curb industrial discharges, most have not. Unfortunately, recent action by EPA [falls short](#) of what is needed to sufficiently address industrial discharges of PFAS both in terms of scope and urgency.

As Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, you took enforcement action against The Chemours Company to compel them to control their PFAS discharges. Now we urge you to protect communities across the country just as you did for communities in North Carolina.

Your enforcement action was based on a simple premise—PFAS dischargers must disclose their pollution to permitting agencies before they can be allowed to contaminate our streams and rivers. If EPA made clear that this existing legal requirement applies to PFAS,

dischargers across the country would be forced to take responsibility for their pollution. EPA should also learn from the cleanup happening under the [Chemours Consent Order](#). The technology that Chemours has applied to nearly eliminate PFAS discharges in many instances can be used in case-by-case technology-based effluent limit determinations to clean up rivers across the country while EPA prepares nationwide effluent limitation guidelines. EPA should require use of these tools across the country.

Earlier this month, EPA released its Preliminary Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15. While we recognize that this is a positive first step, Plan 15 excludes most of the industry categories that are making the PFAS pollution challenge even bigger—despite the well documented risks posed by PFAS exposure in humans and our environment. Plan 15 also fails to set deadlines for new standards. We find this extremely disappointing.

By contrast, the U.S. House of Representative has twice passed bipartisan legislation that would require the EPA to set PFAS standards for nine industry categories within four years. We believe that anything less ambitious than the standards endorsed by the House would fall short of what communities struggling with PFAS pollution expect from EPA.

We urge you to finalize a robust PFAS Road Map that shifts responsibility for stopping the ongoing PFAS crisis to polluters. We encourage EPA to use existing authorities to require disclosure of PFAS and use of technology to control discharges, set a PFAS drinking water standard, quickly set nationwide standards to restrict industrial releases of PFAS, designate PFAS as hazardous substances, end needless uses of PFAS, and ensure that PFAS wastes are properly disposed.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in addressing the PFAS contamination crisis, and we hope the EPA's upcoming PFAS Road Map will include a commitment to expand efforts to curb industrial releases of PFAS.

Sincerely,

Advance Carolina
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie
Alabama Rivers Alliance
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments
American Sustainable Business Council
Anthropocene Alliance
Black Warrior Riverkeeper
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners

Cahaba River Society
Cahaba Riverkeeper
Cape Fear River Watch
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Progressive Reform
Center for Public Environmental Oversight
Charleston Waterkeeper
Children's Environmental Health Network
Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper
Choices Interlinking
Church of the Living God

Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB)
Clean Cape Fear
Clean Water Action
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Common Ground Consulting, LLC
Community Action Works Campaigns
Community Water Center
Congaree Riverkeeper
Consumer Reports
Coosa Riverkeeper
Crawford Stewardship Project
Defend Our Health
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Duke University
Earthjustice
Eastern Panhandle (WV) Green Coalition
Ecology Center
Endangered Habitats League
Environment America
Environmental Justice Task Force in Tucson
Environmental Protection Network
Environmental Working Group
Family Farm Defenders
Fannie Lou Hamer Center for Change
Fight For Zero
Food & Water Watch
For Love of Water (FLOW)
Friends of the Detroit River/Detroit River Public Advisory Council
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
Friends of Toppenish Creek
Gas Free Seneca
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network
Green Science Policy Institute
GreenCAPE
GreenLatinos
Gunpowder RIVERKEEPER
Harpeth River Conservancy
Haw River Assembly
Healthy Gulf
Hometown Action
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
Kentucky Resources Council
Kootenai Environmental Alliance

League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Louisiana Green Corps
Lynnhaven River NOW
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water
Miami Waterkeeper
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Midwest Environmental Advocates
Military Poisons
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Mississippi Rising Coalition
Mississippi River Collaborative
Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper
Missouri NAACP
Moms for a Nontoxic New York
Mountain Watershed Association
MountainTrue
Nantucket Land Council, Inc.
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NJ Audubon
Ogeechee Riverkeeper
Oregon Environmental Council
OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Pax Christi USA, New Orleans
Peconic Baykeeper
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
People's Justice Council
PfoaProjectNY
Physicians for Social Responsibility
PolicyLink
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Public Interest Research Group
Puget Soundkeeper
Rachel Carson Council
River Network
Riverkeeper
Rockbridge Area Conservation Council
Rogue Riverkeeper

Rural Advancement Fund of the National
Sharecroppers Fund, Inc
Rural Coalition
Safer States
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
Satilla Riverkeeper
Save RGV
Save The Sound
SC Idle No More, SCIAC
Science and Environmental Health Network
Seneca Lake Guardian
Sierra Club
Social Science Environmental Health
Research Institute (Northeastern University)
Southeast Rural Community Assistance
Project
Southern Environmental Law Center
SouthWings
St. Johns Riverkeeper
Steps Coalition
Suncoast Waterkeeper
Surfrider Foundation
Sustain Charlotte
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville
Tennessee Riverkeeper
TerraScapes Environmental

Testing for Pease
The Downstream Project
The People's Justice Council
The Rising Youth
The Water Collaborative of Greater New
Orleans
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Tree Fredericksburg
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Twin harbors waterkeeper
Union of Concerned Scientists
Verde
Vermont Conservation Voters
Waterkeeper Alliance
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Waterway Advocates
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Winyah Rivers Alliance
Wisconsin EcoLatinos
Women's Voices for the Earth
WV Citizen Action Group
Your Turnout Gear and PFOA
Zero Waste Washington

CC:

Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator for the EPA
Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water
Brenda Mallory, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality