

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 5, 2025

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We write with deep concern regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent decision to move to vacate its determinations and enforceable drinking water standards for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (GenX), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA),<sup>1</sup> and its plans to delay compliance with the standards for two additional PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS).<sup>2</sup> PFAS, more commonly known as 'forever chemicals,' resist breaking down in the environment and accumulate in the human body, leading to increased health risks over a lifetime. Children, pregnant women, and communities already burdened by pollution are especially vulnerable to the harms of PFAS exposure, including developmental delays, hormonal disruption, and elevated risks of cancer.<sup>3</sup>

Your actions to roll back protections for GenX, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFBS, and to delay compliance with standards for PFOA and PFOS represent a serious abdication of the EPA's duty to safeguard public health. If the EPA continues down this road, these decisions to allow forever chemicals into our water supplies will undermine years of work to protect Americans from toxic PFAS and disproportionately harm our nation's most vulnerable communities.

The EPA's April 2024 rule was a long-overdue step forward after decades of advocacy by impacted communities, scientists, and public health experts.<sup>4</sup> This rule created the first nationwide, legally enforceable drinking water standard to help prevent exposure to PFAS chemicals, setting health-protective limits for six PFAS chemicals and requiring public reporting so families can know if their water is safe.<sup>5</sup> These protections were celebrated by people across the country, especially parents who have long worried about what was coming out of their taps and what it means for their children's future.

<sup>1</sup> EPA seeks to roll back pfas drinking water rules, keeping millions exposed to toxic forever chemicals in Tap Water, September 12, 2025, <https://www.nrdc.org/press-releases/epa-seeks-roll-back-pfas-drinking-water-rules-keeping-millions-exposed-toxic-forever>.

<sup>2</sup> EPA Announces it Will Keep Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFOA, PFOS, May 14, 2025, <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-it-will-keep-maximum-contaminant-levels-pfoa-pfos>.

<sup>3</sup> Melissa J. Marchese et al., "Prenatal and Perinatal Exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (Pfas)-Contaminated Drinking Water Impacts Offspring Neurobehavior and Development," *The Science of the total environment*, March 20, 2024, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10923173/>.

<sup>4</sup> EPA, April 19, 2024, <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-critical-rule-clean-pfas-contamination-protect>.

<sup>5</sup> "EPA Finalizes First Drinking Water Standard for Pfas," April 4, 2024, <https://www.ngwa.org/detail/news/2024/04/10/epa-finalizes-first-drinking-water-standards-for-pfas>.

Your recent motion to vacate the standards and regulatory determinations for PFNA, PFBS, PFHxS, and GenX is a devastating reversal for the millions of people who rely on these protections for their health and safety. Nearly 200 million Americans have PFAS in their drinking water, causing them to face higher rates of illness and endure the constant fear that a simple glass of water could harm their health.<sup>6</sup> For parents of young children, every delay in action is another day of exposure during the most critical stages of growth and development. Underserved communities, which already face disproportionate environmental and health burdens, will bear the brunt of this dangerous rollback.

EPA is taking steps to reduce protections against these ‘forever chemicals’, despite the *Safe Drinking Water Act’s* clear anti-backsliding provision that prohibits the EPA from weakening drinking water standards once they are set.<sup>7</sup> Your motion circumvents this important safeguard, raising serious questions about the agency’s commitment to its mission of protecting human health and the environment. We urge you to immediately reverse course, defend the 2024 PFAS drinking water standards, and prioritize swift implementation. The EPA’s responsibility is to the American people.

We ask that the EPA provide a clear, written commitment to:

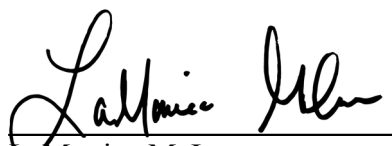
1. Uphold and fully enforce the nation’s PFAS drinking water standards without weakening or delaying protections.
2. Center the health of vulnerable populations—particularly children, pregnant women, and low-income communities—in all PFAS-related decisions and public communications.
3. Work transparently with Congress, states, and impacted communities to accelerate progress on PFAS monitoring, treatment, and long-term exposure prevention.
4. Send a report to Congress on the expected health effects of delaying compliance with PFOA and PFOS standards, especially for vulnerable groups like children and pregnant women.

Safe drinking water is not a privilege; it is a basic human right. Every day without robust, science-backed regulations means communities across the nation being exposed to more PFAS, increasing long-term health risks. The people who elected us deserve decisive action that puts their health first. We look forward to your response before November 28th.

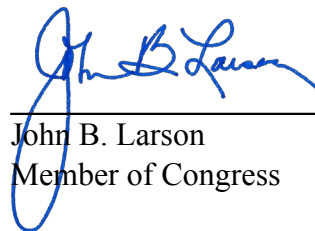
Sincerely,

<sup>6</sup> Population-wide exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances from drinking water in the United States | environmental science & technology letters, October 14, 2020, <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.estlett.0c00713>.

<sup>7</sup> Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-1(b)(9) (prohibiting backsliding in drinking water standards).



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



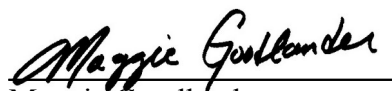
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



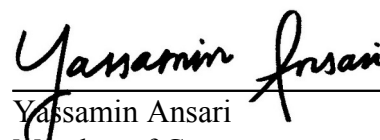
Ed Case  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



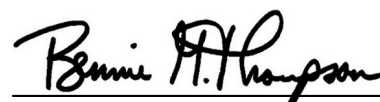
Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress




Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress




Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress




---

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress




---

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress




---

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress




---

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress




---

Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress




---

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



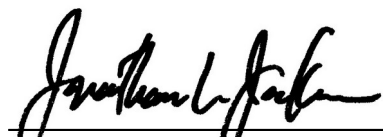
---

Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress



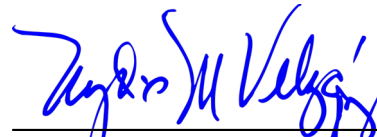
---

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



---

Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress




---

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress




---

Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress




---

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



---

Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



---

Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



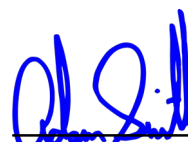
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



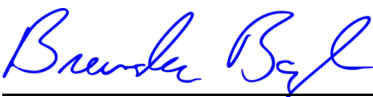
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



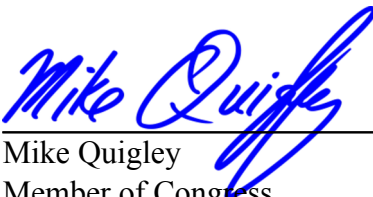
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



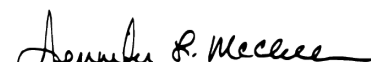
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



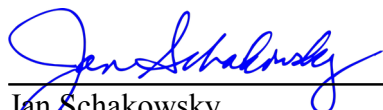
Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Ferrol Nadler  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



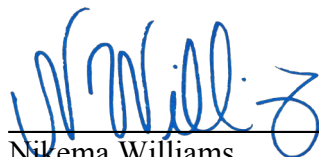
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



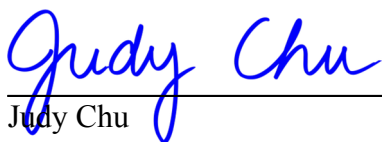
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



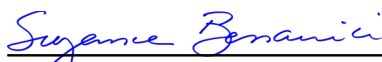
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress (OH-03)



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



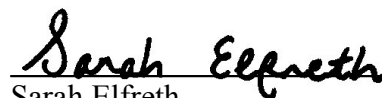
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



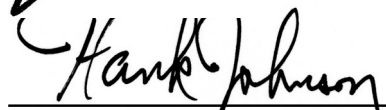
Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



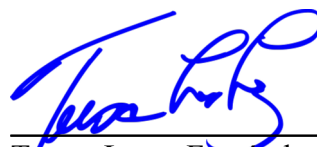
Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



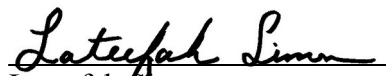
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



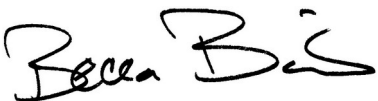
Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



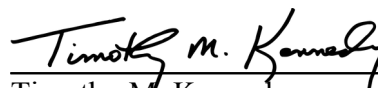
Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



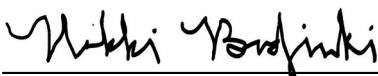
Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress



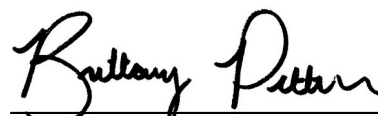
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

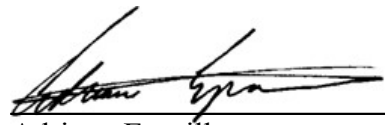


Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
Member of Congress





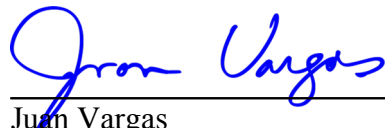
Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



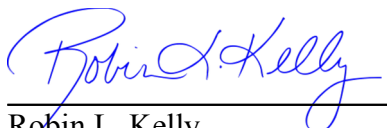
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



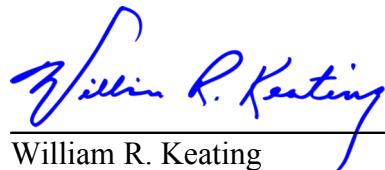
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



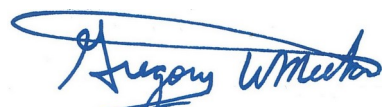
Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



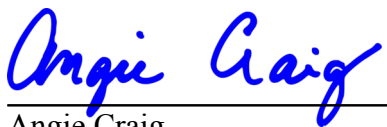
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



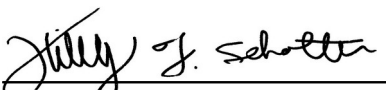
---

Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



---

Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



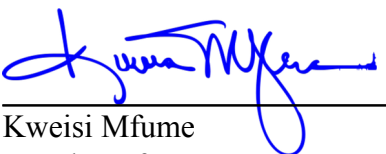
---

Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



---

Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



---

Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



---

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



---

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



---

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



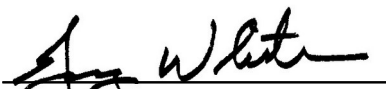
---

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



---

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



---

George Whitesides  
Member of Congress