

September 9, 2022

Molly K. Magarik Department of Health and Social Services Division of Public Health 417 Federal Street Dover, DE 19901

RE: Proposed Revisions to the Public Drinking Water Systems Regulations for PFAS

Dear Secretary Magarik,

On behalf of the Water Quality Association (WQA) and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), we would like to offer the Department educational resources and our technical expertise regarding PFAS remediation. As you begin reviewing and revising 16 DE Admin. Code 4462 – Public Drinking Water Systems and Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS, it is important to understand the feasibility of point-of-use (POU) and point-of-entry (POE) water treatment systems as used in households and businesses and the current efficacy of this technology.

Navigating drinking water challenges and regulating contaminants is a complex and difficult task. Setting MCLs and monitoring your water supply are the first steps, but as areas of contamination are identified, residents will be looking for solutions. Water treatment systems, such as POU and POE, can assist with the reduction of PFAS in drinking water. These final barrier technologies are already being utilized by many individuals, households, and businesses to improve their drinking water quality. It is vital for the department to understand the practicality of these water treatment systems that are ready to be deployed immediately in response to this public health concern. It is also important to note that the Department and Delawareans should use certified products to ensure that these systems function as intended and are considered as part of the solution when responding to PFAS.

While our associations do not provide recommendations on appropriate MCL levels for PFAS chemicals, we can inform you of the feasibility of using POU/POE for mitigation. These technologies are tested and certified to national standards by third-party certification bodies. The national standards have been developed with the participation of all interested and affected stakeholders including manufacturers, non-profits, advocacy organizations, representatives of government (such as the EPA), and academia.

At the moment, there are two existing standards for water filtration devices that offer elective claims to reduce PFOA and PFOS. Those are NSF/ANSI 53: *Drinking Water Treatment Units – Health Effects* and *NSF/ANSI 58: Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Treatment Systems*. These standards cover material safety, structural integrity, and a variety of elective health-related contaminant claims. The current 2021 editions of these standards include claims for reducing PFOA and PFOS to 70 parts per trillion (ppt), which was in alignment with the EPA's previous



Health Advisory until recently. Under the 2022 editions of these standards, which will be publish in late 2022, water filtration systems can become certified to reduce PFAS concentrations in water to a cumulative 20 ppt.

It will be important for your residents to have access to this filtration technology if they are being supplied with contaminated drinking water since it can take time to come under compliance. Often in this scenario, residents begin looking for ways to remediate these health contaminants or look to the state to provide short-term or long-term relief. We share this information with you since States, when developing MCLs, should understand the limits of medical, scientific, and technological feasibility for specific PFAS chemicals.

We welcome the opportunity to help support the mitigation of PFAS in drinking water and would be willing to serve as a resource to the Department. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for working to ensure the health and well-being of your Delawareans.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Pollack, Director of Government Affairs Water Quality Association Jim Scarborough, Director of Government Relations IAPMO

About WOA

WQA is a not-for-profit trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry with over 2,700 members worldwide. Since its creation in 1974, WQA has worked tirelessly to improve water quality through sustainable technologies and services. Our members are manufacturers, dealers, and distributors who specialize in point-of-use (POU) and point-of- entry (POE) water filtration systems, which treat water at the tap or entry point of a home or building. WQA also operates an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited testing and certification laboratory that certifies water filtration products to nationally accepted industry standards for contaminant removal.

About IAPMO

IAPMO was founded in 1926 by government officials in the US to protect public health and safety by developing the most progressive and technically advanced plumbing, mechanical and water efficiency codes in the world. A large part of IAPMO's work focuses on product testing for the industry. Our research and testing labs are capable of testing products to more than 400 standards and we provide testing to new plumbing products that enter the market every year. These include such devices as showerheads, faucets, and water filters. Our rigorous process includes following the criteria of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).