



July 14, 2023

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito,

On behalf of the Water Quality Association (WQA), a not-for-profit trade association representing 2,500 member companies in the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry, we are writing to you in support of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's proposed legislation seeking to improve the mitigation of PFAS contamination.

Navigating drinking water challenges is a complex and difficult task due to the vast array of contaminants, the highly localized nature of the challenges, and the types and ages of water systems across the country. This is particularly true for the estimated 23 million, mostly rural households across the U.S. that rely on private wells for drinking water. To better assist these communities, WQA supports Section 6 of the bill, which provides technical fixes to well assistance provisions included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 and America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018. EPA's narrow interpretation of key IIJA and AWIA provisions limits states' use of funds solely to connecting homes and businesses in small and disadvantaged communities to broader established public water systems. This approach has limited effectiveness, as significant community-specific barriers often prevent homes and businesses from being connected to a public water system. Section 6 rightfully corrects this limited interpretation and allows states to leverage EPA funding to reduce and mitigate contaminants, including PFAS, in private wells.

Furthermore, WQA supports Section 11, which creates a new emergency assistance authority for the EPA to help small, rural, Tribal, underserved, or disadvantaged communities address PFAS contamination. When assisting these communities to reduce PFAS in water (including groundwater), EPW should provide flexibility to the EPA so they can leverage cost-effective, certified point-of-use (POU) and point-of-entry (POE) technologies, which can be deployed immediately in emergency situations as well as sustainably and can assist with reducing PFAS in drinking water. Many households and businesses currently use these final barrier technologies to improve their water quality.



Additionally, Section 7 requires the development of risk management guidance, which will be vital in addressing PFAS exposure generally and specifically for the drinking water supplies used and consumed in residences and businesses. As mentioned, POU and POE technologies can provide a final barrier to PFAS contamination in drinking water. WQA supports Section 7 since it is important for homeowners and consumers to be informed on these technologies' role in reducing PFAS exposure.

Funding will also be essential in advancing these new developments and opportunities for mitigation. There remain many areas of technological advancements needed to properly address the risk of PFAS exposure. WQA supports Section 8, which directs federal agencies to research and help develop technologies that can prevent, detect, reduce, destroy, and verify emerging contaminants and PFAS.

WQA and its members are dedicated to providing technologies for reducing PFAS in drinking water. By implementing final barrier POU and POE technologies tailored to the specific needs of a community, along with other proposed solutions, the water treatment industry, Congress, and EPA can help ensure healthier and safer drinking water for all Americans. We applaud the EPW Committee's actions in putting forth legislation to help the EPA implement efficient and effective regulations protecting Americans from the adverse health impacts of PFAS contamination in drinking water.

Thank you in advance for putting forth this legislation and considering WQA's comments. We look forward to continuing to work with the committee on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Pollack
Director of Government Affairs
Water Quality Association
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About WQA

Since its creation in 1974, WQA and its member companies have worked tirelessly to improve water quality through sustainable technologies and services. As a leader in the point-of-use (POU) and point-of-entry (POE) drinking water treatment system industry, the association operates an American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accredited testing and certification program that evaluates and certifies water filtration products to nationally accepted industry standards for contaminant removal. The association also operates a Professional Certification Program with a rigorous continued education component that qualifies a level of knowledge to enhance the application of the certified products. WQA also offers a variety of technical skills and educational resources, many of which can serve as vital tools as Congress aims to reduce PFAS in drinking water.