

February 16th, 2022
Wisconsin Natural Resource Board
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Members of the Natural Resources Board,

We represent communities across Wisconsin impacted by PFAS pollution. Some of our constituents cannot drink the water that comes from their taps because their private wells are contaminated. Others have faced anxiety when municipal water systems serving them have found PFAS in their wells. Yet others that fish for food or recreational purposes find signs warning them not to eat the fish from lakes and streams they have recreated in for years.

We believe an important first step in addressing the public health and water quality challenges posed to Wisconsin families by PFAS pollution is putting in place groundwater, drinking water, and surface water quality standards for PFOA and PFOS, and we ask you to approve the standards before you without delay.

Our state's water utilities exist to provide clean, safe, reliable water for their customers, but many have not tested their water supplies for these harmful chemicals. Wisconsin families deserve to know whether the water they drink is safe, and only testing and enforceable standards can provide that peace of mind. The 1/3 of Wisconsin families that rely on private wells for drinking water are equally deserving of standards that protect their health and provide mechanisms for accountability and remedy when that water is contaminated.

We recognize that some communities are concerned about the costs of testing for PFAS and addressing PFAS contamination if it is found. We share those concerns and firmly believe state and federal resources must be made available to help our communities cope with these challenges. We cannot, however, ignore the extensive costs of inaction; the immediate expense and inconvenience of alternative water sources like bottled water, the host of health risks posed to people of all ages, and the anxiety, stress, and uncertainty of not knowing if one's water is safe to drink.

Tens of millions of federal dollars will be available over the next five years to help communities in Wisconsin address PFAS pollution, but we can't act if we don't even know what's in our water. We also need standards to guide cleanup efforts where PFAS contamination is found.

Our communities need help, and they deserve it now. We cannot wait years to know what is in our water and begin the process of cleaning it up. Other states around us have already passed similar standards. We don't need to wait for the federal government to act.

We ask you to approve the groundwater, drinking water, and surface water standards for PFOA and PFOS the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed to protect Wisconsin families, the people we are elected to represent. These standards will initiate testing for these

harmful chemicals, guide cleanup efforts, and send a message to manufacturers and others that polluting Wisconsin's water resources with PFAS and putting families' health at risk is unacceptable.

Thank you,

Cindy Baur
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Town of Peshtigo Supervisor 1

Mac Kiel
La Crosse, WI
District 7 Council Member

Kate Beaton
Eau Claire, WI
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