

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 20, 2021

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La Crosse, WI 54603-8501

Dear Neighbor,

As we've seen in recent weeks, reports have shown high levels of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) found in drinking water in the Town of Campbell. These chemicals are commonly found in textiles, packaging, personal care products and firefighting foam, and pose serious risks to human health and the environment.

Like you, I am concerned about the health of my family and neighbors here on French Island, and I am working with local, state, and federal officials to determine the scope of the contamination and find ways to ensure all communities throughout Wisconsin have access to safe drinking water. Since learning about the initial efforts to test wells downstream of the La Crosse Regional Airport, I've been in close communication with Town of Campbell administrators, the Mayor's office, United States Geological Survey, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as we explore options to ensure residents have access to safe drinking water and find a long-term solution to this problem.

I successfully requested that U.S. Treasury Secretary Yellen allow communities to use funding from the American Rescue Plan to address PFAS contamination and I'm proud to see the administration prioritize improving access to clean drinking water in their efforts to build back stronger than ever. I also contacted U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine what grants are available for the Town of Campbell to offset some of the costs for additional well testing and long-term environmental remediation. I was also proud to cosponsor the PFAS Action Act, which establishes a national drinking water standard for select PFAS chemicals, designates as hazardous to allow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up contaminated sites across the country, as well as list under the Clean Water Act, limits industrial discharges, and provides \$200 million annually to assist water utilities and wastewater treatment.

I am working with my colleagues on the PFAS Task Force to get more funding to support critical PFAS infrastructure, scientific, regulatory and cleanup needs. Specifically I requested additional funding to support EPA's regulatory and cleanup work on PFAS chemicals, expand USDA's efforts to help rural communities impacted by PFAS contamination, and to create a nationwide PFAS

health study to determine how these chemicals are impacting veterans, agricultural commodities, and our environment. The Task Force also sent a letter to President Biden outlining the need to take action on PFAS by reducing its use in everyday products, setting a national drinking water standard and formally designating PFAS as a hazardous substance, immediately placing a moratorium on the introduction of new PFAS chemicals, and offering support for communities that are decimated by the health effects of PFAS.

Currently, the Town of Campbell is under an interim, area-wide drinking water advisory, and free bottled water is available to affected community members. Please visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/Campbell.html> for more information on how to access free, alternative drinking water and further resources including:

- Drinking water sampling
- Public meetings
- Investigations
- Health Information and Resources

I have long supported legislation to require the EPA to designate all PFAS substances as hazardous because they pose serious risks to human health and the environment, and legislation to add PFAS to the TRI Toxic chemicals list, which would alert communities that are exposed to PFAS so they can take protective action.

The health and safety of my constituents is always my highest priority and I will continue advocating on your behalf on this serious issue. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with additional comments by contacting my office toll-free at 1-888-442-8040 or visiting my website, www.kind.house.gov, where you can find updated information, sign up to receive my e-newsletter, and send me an e-mail.

Talk soon,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress