

PFAS Update- Jan 11, 2022

Last week wrapped up DNR public hearings on establishing standards for PFOA and PFOS in **groundwater**. This concluded public hearings for setting water quality standards in WI. Neighboring states like MN and MI have set standards in the last decade, as well as CA and many New England states. Setting enforceable standards is key to protecting public health.

Drinking water standards affect municipal water suppliers, like the City of La Crosse.

Surface water relates to bodies of water like rivers and lakes, which can be used as water resources, once they are funneled to municipal treatment facilities before being used for public drinking water.

Groundwater relates to non-municipal water from the ground - this includes all private well users.

Roughly a third of all Wisconsin residents *and* many businesses get their water from private wells.

I have provided both verbal testimony and written input in favor of standards for all. I want lower standards set for all PFAS, yet we must start somewhere. WI currently has no legally binding standards which can be enforced by the DNR or DHS.

Last week I spoke with Rep. Ron Kinds office and Sen. Brad Pfaff's office about updates on the distribution of funds for water infrastructure to help us pay for a long-term water safe drinking water solution.

I have a meeting with Sen. Pfaff's office this Friday to discuss funding issues and potential grant resources.

Remember there are 80 communities in WI dealing with some form of water contamination. I am committed to ensure the Town of Campbell becomes a priority for these funds.

I collaborate each week with our county, state and federal elected leaders and their staff. I encourage every resident to contact their county, state and federal representatives and tell your personal story of PFAS contamination. Without your voice lawmakers will not pursue this issue with the urgency it commands. It is our responsibility to make it known that safe drinking water should be a right in WI and nationwide.

Thanks!

Lee Donahue
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Health, Education, and Welfare