PFAS Update November 14, 2023 Lee Donahue, Supervisor 2 Health, Education and Welfare

I am extremely frustrated that SB 312 passed the Senate today. There are three highly detrimental parts of this amended version of SB 312which I believe would be devastating to Campbell residents and other private well owners across Wisconsin.

If the DNR has no authority to hold polluters responsible, we may all be swimming in a toxic sea of contaminants that will never be addressed.

Shifting protections from residents who are the true “innocent landowners” to commercial and industrial interests means that taxpayers will bear the overwhelming financial burden to find and implement safe drinking water solutions.

The bill has no tie to the $125 million-dollar PFAS “Trust Fund” which creates more delays for impacted communities like ours. PFAS contamination and the toxic effects of PFAS are a public health crisis. Wisconsin legislators need to recognize and protect the 100 + communities like Campbell, Peshtigo, and Stella whose residents have been poisoned by these toxic compounds through no fault of their own.

It’s unclear when this bill will come before the Assembly. I urge you to contact your assembly representatives by phone or email to express your concerns. The original bill focused on private well owners and now that focus has shifted to commercial interests.

Call Your Legislator

Rep. Jill Billings can be reached at 608 -237-9195 and **Email**:Rep.Billings@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Your call can be as simple as I am concerned about PFAS in my community and I want to uphold the Spills Law in SB 312.

Last Friday I was a panelist at a conference sponsored by the Wisconsin Environmental Health Network a non-profit comprised of mostly retired medical and public health experts. International PFAS expert Graham Peaslee gave a presentation among others who focused on contaminants in our environment, technology and testing to assess contaminant exposure and ways the public can influence corporations who use these ingredients in manufacturing.

In the next two months a final PFAS Maximum Contaminant Level is expected to be announced. Previously it was 70 parts per trillion and now may be as low as 4 ppt.

Work between Campbell, the County health department and the DNR continues as we focus on guidelines and educational information to help protect the lower Mt. Simon aquifer.

Thank you.