

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 13, 2020

The Honorable Patrick Breysse  
Director  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
4770 Buford Highway NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Dear Director Breysse:

We are writing to request an update on the status of two health consultations that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is conducting in the Merrimack area of southern New Hampshire concerning the community's exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). At the request of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, ATSDR initiated these health consultations in August 2016; one for public water systems and the other for private drinking water wells. While the impacted communities have been assured that the health consultations are in process, they have received little in terms of data or findings, which deprives residents of critical information about the risks and extent of PFAS contamination in their region.

As you are aware, PFAS contamination is a concern in communities across the United States and throughout New Hampshire. In early 2016, high-levels of PFAS contamination were discovered in public and private drinking water supplies in the Towns of Merrimack and Litchfield, New Hampshire. In addition to Merrimack and Litchfield, a subsequent investigation by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services revealed extensive PFAS contamination across portions of Bedford, Londonderry and Manchester, New Hampshire. While the State of New Hampshire and the municipalities in the area have taken steps to protect public health, more health information is necessary.

Residents of these five towns have been waiting several years for the publication of ATSDR's health consultations, which could improve residents' knowledge of their exposure and provide valuable data to help inform their healthcare decisions. In addition to an update on the status of these health consultations, we also request a timeline for when these reports may be completed and released to the public.

We appreciate all the work that ATSDR has done in New Hampshire over the past few years and believe the agency's work has been vital to furthering our knowledge of the health risks associated with PFAS exposure. We thank you for your prompt attention to this letter and look forward to continuing to work together on the important issue of PFAS exposure.

Sincerely,



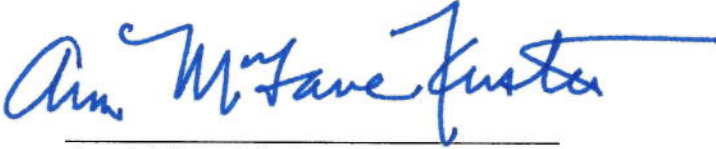
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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress