



Taking Action on PFAS

116th Congress

Environment & Climate Change Chairman Paul Tonko

"If the Administration truly refuses to act, Congress will need to step in to deliver the drinking water standards and other PFAS protections the American people need and deserve."

❖ Paul Tonko

PFAS pollution is dangerous & hard to clean up

- **Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are everywhere**—air pollution, contaminants in our drinking water, consumer goods and packaging, firefighting foam, etc.
 - PFAS is a class of chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS and thousands of other variants
 - These synthetic 'forever' chemicals are **now present in the blood of 99% of Americans**
- Negative health effects of PFAS exposure start to occur at extremely small concentrations
 - Increases risks of various forms of cancer, kidney disease, thyroid dysfunction & other illness
- **Up to 110 Million Americans may have PFAS-contaminated drinking water**
 - **More than 1,500 drinking water systems** across the U.S. may be contaminated

EPA released an action plan but refuses to act

- **The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has yet to move** forward on a maximum contaminant level (MCL), designation of PFAS as a hazardous substance or take other essential steps to protect communities
- **A real action plan** in response to this crisis needs to include common-sense steps:
 1. Reduce Americans' exposure to PFAS through our air, water and consumer goods
 2. Increase monitoring and testing of potentially affected systems & communities
 3. Expedite remediation and accountability when PFAS is released into the environment

Congress Needs to Act!

With EPA refusing to step up to protect the American people from this wide-spectrum threat to public health and our environment, **Congress needs to step in to protect our kids & communities!**

Environment & Climate Change Chairman Paul Tonko is working with more than a dozen House colleagues to advance a **comprehensive action plan to tackle PFAS contamination:**

- Designate PFAS as a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act
- Designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a.k.a. "Superfund"
- Provide grants for PFAS-affected drinking water systems to put in treatment infrastructure
- Issue guidance for firefighters to minimize their risks of PFAS exposure
- Set a Maximum Containment Level (MCL) for PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
- Create a "Safer Choice" label for pots, pans and cooking utensils that are PFAS-free
- Require comprehensive testing of all PFAS under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- Prevent the use of new PFAS chemical formulations and significant new applications
- Hold PFAS manufacturers financially responsible for any necessary cleanup
- Raise public disclosure standards for communities facing any PFAS releases

Connect with Representative Tonko on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @RepPaulTonko