

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 11, 2016

Ray Mabus  
Secretary, United States Navy  
Office of the Secretary  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350

Deborah L. James  
Secretary, United States Air Force  
Office of the Secretary  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Mabus and Secretary James:

As you are aware, the uninhibited past use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster and Horsham Air Guard Station resulted in perfluorinated compounds (PFC) contamination in drinking water on and around the bases. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to address private and public well contamination on and around the bases in surrounding communities, and we will continue to work with you to eliminate these threats for as long as it takes. Today, we inquire as to the status of your efforts to support current and former base employees, both civilian and military.

For years if not decades, these employees drank the water, made coffee with the water, the list goes on. They deserve the latest information regarding the potential health effects – both knowns and unknowns. In light of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's May 2016 revised lifetime health advisory for PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), we request that you expeditiously convene an informational forum for current and former employees to inform them of the status of the contamination and cleanup efforts, healthcare resources available to current and former employees, and the latest science on the human health effects from ingesting these contaminants.

Please clarify the health care resources currently available to such personnel. There is a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding currently. We have received many such inquiries from constituents, and need to be able to provide these individuals with this important information. Under what circumstances or criteria would a health registry be established? What assistance can be provided to individuals submitting claims to the Veterans Administration?

Finally, we urge you to conduct blood testing and health screenings for current and former employees who have likely been exposed to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water on base during the relevant timeframe. We and other elected officials continue to push for the provision of such monitoring for the general population surrounding the bases, which remains a challenge. We continue to push the Centers for Disease Control to clarify its position on the matter. However, the DOD's authority and responsibility to conduct health screening and monitoring for its own employees is self-evident, in our opinion.

Again, we thank you for your efforts to date and commitment to resolving these issues into the future. We also thank you in advance for your prompt reply to our letter.

Sincerely,

  
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress

  
Michael G. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Patrick J. Toomey  
United States Senator

cc:

Maureen Sullivan, Director of Environmental Management for the Deputy Under Secretary of  
Defense Installations and Environment

Gregory Preston, Director, Navy BRAC Program Management Office East

Richard McCoy, Branch Chief, Environmental Restoration, Air National Guard