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Contacts:

Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215.692.2329 tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org

Stephanie Wein, PennEnvironment, 267-438-3397, stephanie@pennenvironment.org

Katie Blume, Conservation Voters of PA, 570-713-8085, katie@conservationpa.org

Maurice M Sampson, Clean Water Action, 267 269 6912, msampson@cleanwater.org

Eric Harder, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper w/ Mountain Watershed Association, 262-716-7151, eric@mtwatershed.com

Tamela Trussell, Move Past Plastics, 717-713-5890, movepastplastic@gmail.com

PA PFAS Coalition Calls for Stricter Rules for Toxic Contaminants ***Groups say Pennsylvania must remove toxins from our drinking water***

Harrisburg, PA - The Pennsylvania Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Coalition (PA PFAS Coalition) gathered today at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) offices at the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg. The coalition [delivered a letter](#) to PADEP and the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) signed by 28 organizations from across Pennsylvania.

The letter was publicly shared and Coalition representatives discussed the changes they seek to PADEP's proposed rulemaking for PFOA and PFOS maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), including setting the highest protections possible for the public from the highly toxic PFAS found in the state's drinking water and for stricter drinking water standards for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). The letter will also be submitted to the public record for the proposed rulemaking, which is open through April 27.

The PA PFAS Coalition has been advocating for the public to submit written comments to PADEP in support of strict MCLs and a more comprehensive rulemaking because the major exposure route for PFAS is through drinking water, which requires urgent removal from drinking water sources. Thus far, over 2,380 actions have been taken by individuals as a result of the Coalition's advocacy during the comment period. These actions resulted in a written comment or attendance at one of PADEP's Hearings to voice their support for strict drinking water standards that will protect the public. PFAS are found throughout the Commonwealth and are linked to serious diseases, including cancers. Dubbed "forever chemicals" because they don't break down in the environment, they also build up in a person's body, even if ingested in miniscule doses,

increasing the risk of developing diseases correlated with PFOA and PFOS and other PFAS.

The letter to PADEP, in brief summary, advocates:

- more protective maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS than the proposed 14 ppt for PFOA and 18 ppt for PFOS;
- more PFAS compounds to be included in the rulemaking, requiring they also be removed from drinking water;
- all wells in the state to be covered by the safe drinking water standards, including individual private water wells;
- comprehensive and ongoing water supply monitoring for PFAS to continue regardless of current sampling result;
- the MCLs to be implemented much sooner than the 2 to 3 years that is proposed.

“PA has a serious PFAS drinking water contamination problem that can’t be ignored. We have a right to clean drinking water that doesn’t endanger our health. Until PADEP adopts mandatory safe drinking water standards that require these highly toxic “forever chemicals” to be removed from our water, people are at risk to develop the devastating diseases that are linked to them. We need the strictest, most protective standards adopted as swiftly as possible,” **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

“Clean drinking water is essential to good health—and good health is priceless,” **said Maurice Sampson, Eastern Pennsylvania Director, Clean Water Action,** “The MCL should aspire to meet that standard, implemented in months, not years and maintained with a rigorous monitoring protocol. No public or private drinking water system should be exempt. Anything less is unacceptable.”

“PFAS describes a class of thousands of chemicals, many of which are known to be harmful to human health,” **said Stephanie Wein, Clean Water Advocate at PennEnvironment.** “PFOS and PFOA are just the tip of a toxic iceberg and we need to address the entire class of PFAS chemicals - especially those already found in Pennsylvania’s environment - not solely these two.”

“Pennsylvanians need to feel confident that our drinking water is safe and soils are free of dangerous contaminants that never disintegrate. We call on the DEP to set strict limits on PFAS contamination,” **said Jim Wylie, Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Conservation Co-Chair.**

“These proposed standards focus more on the cost of regulating PFAS in drinking water, rather than the negative health and environmental outcomes that will result from them. All Pennsylvanians deserve more protective standards that are in line with the recommendations made by toxicologists and epidemiologists,” **said Katie Blume, Conservation Voters of PA, Political Director.**

“What runs through our watershed runs through our blood. Testing and regulating private well water is necessary for EQUAL PROTECTION for ALL,” **said Tamela Trussell of Move Past Plastic (MPP).**

"Implementation of any approved MCL needs to be immediate. Delaying these protective measures will only cause further public health impacts within our communities. We are years behind other states and we know the problems of continued exposure to PFAS compounds," **said Eric Harder, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper w/ Mountain Watershed Association.**

Organizations signed on to [the letter](#) to PADEP/EQB:

1. 350BucksCounty
2. Berks Gas Truth
3. Better Path Coalition
4. BucksEnvironmentalAction (BEA)
5. Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water
6. Center for Coalfield Justice
7. Clean Water Action
8. Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley PA Chapter
9. Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
10. Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
11. Delaware Riverkeeper Network
12. EGSEA (East Goshen Safety & Environment Advocates)
13. FracTracker Alliance
14. LAWPA (Local Authority Western PA)
15. Moms Clean Air Force, Pennsylvania Chapter
16. Mountain Watershed Association
17. One PA
18. PennEnvironment
19. PennFuture
20. Project CoffeeHouse
21. Responsible Decarbonization Alliance
22. Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter
23. TLC Foundation/Move Past Plastic
24. United Sludge Free Alliance
25. UpstreamPgh
26. Uwchlan Township EAC
27. Waterspirit
28. Women for a Healthy Environment

A copy of the submitted letter can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3EuoM43>

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