

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman, Defense Appropriations
Subcommittee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member, Defense Appropriations
Subcommittee
1016 LHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you negotiate the full Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Defense Appropriations bill, we request your support for both funding and programmatic language to help address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Exposure to these emerging contaminants has been linked to cancer as well as thyroid, kidney, liver, heart and reproductive problems.

In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established new lifetime health advisories for two types of PFAS—Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has identified hundreds of active and former military installations with known or suspected release of PFOA/PFOS that require investigation and remediation. In Michigan, unsafe levels of these chemicals have been discovered in and around Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Sawyer Air Force Base, the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Camp Grayling, and the Escanaba Defense Fuel Supply Point.

Section 316(a) of the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (P.L. No: 115-91) authorizes \$7 million for a study led by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), with support from the EPA and DOD, on the health effects and cumulative impact of PFAS contamination in drinking water, groundwater, and other pathways. On July 26, 2017, during floor consideration of H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018, an amendment to appropriate the funding for this study passed en bloc by voice vote. **Therefore, we urge that no less than \$7 million be included for the study in the FY2018 defense spending bill.**

In addition, Section 316(b) of the NDAA directs the CDC and the ATSDR to conduct an exposure assessment of at least eight military installations that are known to have PFAS contamination in drinking and groundwater sources. The data collected as part of the assessment

will help inform the national health study authorized in Section 316(a). However, it is our understanding that a technical change is needed to the NDAA to enable the DOD to use any appropriated funds to carry out the reviews authorized in both 316(a) and 316(b). **To that end, we ask that the following language be included in the FY2018 defense spending bill:**

SEC. 80XX. Section 316(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) is amended by striking "\$7,000,000 shall be available to carry out the study under this subsection" and inserting "the Secretary of Defense may, without regard to section 2215 of title 10, United States Code, transfer not more than \$7,000,000 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out the study and assessment under this section."

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We hope that the requisite funding and programmatic language to help the DOD address PFAS contamination in Michigan and nationwide are included in the full FY2018 Defense Appropriations bill.


Sincerely,



Daniel T. Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Fred Upton
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Sander M. Levin
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Paul Mitchell
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Debbie Dingell
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Mike Bishop
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Brenda L. Lawrence
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Jack Bergman
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Tim Walberg
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Bill Huizenga
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Dave Trott
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