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May 3, 2021

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As Pennsylvania State Representatives representing communities severely impacted by PFAS contamination, we have been pleased to see your administration taking action to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. However, we were disappointed to see the Air National Guard attempting to avoid responsibility for PFAS contamination the U.S. military caused by appealing the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (PADEP) NPDES Permit No. PA0245046, issued on March 24, 2021. This permit requires the Air National Guard to adhere to an effluent discharge limit of 70 ppt for PFAS at Biddle Air National Guard Base (formerly NASJRB – Willow Grove) in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Appealing this permit contradicts actions undertaken by other federal agencies, including the U. S. Navy, who is complying with identical requirements on property adjacent to the Air National Guard's property in Horsham and in Warminster Township, Bucks County.

For years, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our local communities have been bearing a substantial burden remediating PFAS, noxious chemicals the U. S. military left behind when using firefighting foam at the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base - Willow Grove. These chemicals have infiltrated our public and private drinking water systems and caused a considerable financial toll in addition to serious health implications.

To protect our residents, several local communities, including Horsham Township in Montgomery County and Warrington and Warminster Townships in Bucks County adopted "non-detect" standards for PFAS and the Commonwealth has been supporting those efforts with tens of millions of dollars in funding to eliminate detectable levels of PFAS from our drinking water.

Federally, the CDC is funding a study of the health effects of consuming drinking water containing PFAS in our community. (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/p0923-cdc-atsdr-award-pfas-study.html>) Additionally, the EPA recently announced, "...two actions to protect public health by addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, highlighting the agency's commitment to address

these long-lasting 'forever chemicals' that can enter drinking water supplies and impact communities across the United States." (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-address-pfas-drinking-water>)

In sum, for the Air National Guard to object to meeting the modest standard of 70 ppt for its discharge into our local waterways while the federal, state and local governments are expending significant resources combatting these dangerous chemicals is inconsistent, irrational and irresponsible. Accordingly, we respectfully request you direct the Air National Guard to withdraw its appeal of the effluent discharge limits imposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection NPDES Permit No. PA0245046.

Sincerely Yours,



Todd Stephens
State Representative
151st Legislative District



Todd Polinchock
State Representative
144th Legislative District



Meghan Schroeder
State Representative
29th Legislative District

Cc: The Honorable Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania Governor
The Honorable Robert Casey, U. S. Senator
The Honorable Pat Toomey, U. S. Senator
The Honorable Madeleine Dean, U. S. Congresswoman
The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, U. S. Congressman