



TESTING *for* PEASE

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Statement on EPA Announcing Drinking Water Standards for PFAS

10 years ago my life changed forever when I read a newspaper article that said high levels of PFAS were detected in the drinking water at the Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. My heart sank because my husband and my two small children were at the Pease Tradeport almost daily for work and for daycare and they were drinking the contaminated municipal water. PFAS are toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative man made chemicals. And PFAS are associated with many different adverse health effects in humans. I was shocked to learn back then that the government did not require routine testing for these chemicals and that there were no drinking water standards or regulations for PFAS to stop communities from drinking these harmful chemicals.

Today I am celebrating the announcement of the first federal drinking water standards for PFAS. These actions are a momentous milestone for communities all across the country. President Biden pledged to set a PFAS drinking water standard in 2020 as part of the Biden-Harris plan to secure environmental justice. The Biden EPA fulfilled this important promise and as a result, thousands of lives will be saved. The PFAS drinking water standard finalized today will set science-based limits on PFAS in drinking water for six PFAS. While some states have set their own PFAS drinking water standards, millions of Americans in 39 states will soon have cleaner water, thanks to the EPA. All of us should be protected from PFAS, regardless of where we live. Today's announcement is not only historic, it is long overdue. Once implemented, the PFAS drinking water standard will prevent tens of thousands of serious and chronic illnesses.

A lot has happened in the last 10 years to make progress on PFAS. I have experienced so many emotions due to my family being exposed to highly contaminated drinking water. I have channeled the fear, anger, guilt, and sadness that has come with my family being contaminated without consent and have used it to empower me to push for change. I have fought tirelessly for regulations and action that would prevent another family and community from experiencing the pain and worry I have lived with for the last 10 years since first learning of my family's PFAS exposure through contaminated drinking water. Although there is still so much more work to be done to address PFAS contamination, this announcement of these PFAS drinking water standards today is a day to be celebrated!

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