

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 8, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Pruitt and Secretary Azar:

We write to express our deep concern with recent news reports that individuals within the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are blocking the release of results from a study completed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) regarding Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The results of this study are critical to protecting the health and well-being of communities across the country, and it is imperative that the results of this study be released immediately.

As you are aware, PFAS are a class of toxic chemicals used in manufacturing that have been linked to a variety of cancers and serious health conditions. According to recent media reports, ATSDR has been working on a report on the health effects of PFAS, which reportedly shows that exposure to these chemicals at levels lower than previously known pose a danger to human health – in particular the health of more vulnerable populations like pregnant women and the immunocompromised. We understand that this report was finalized in January 2018, but *Politico* has reported that there are “internal emails showing EPA officials working to block the report.” This is unacceptable.

The EPA and other regulatory agencies must rely on the most up-to-date, factually-accurate information based on rigorous science to guide policy decisions and regulations designed to protect the health and well-being of our constituents. Given the wide use of PFAS and presence of these chemicals in communities across the U.S., it is critical that this report be released without delay and that EPA act immediately to update its guidelines to ensure Americans are informed of and protected from the danger of exposure to these toxins. We are especially concerned since PFAS have been discovered in community water systems as well as on multiple Department of Defense installations. To this point, many local officials, as well as the Department of Defense have been working off the voluntary EPA guidelines issued in 2016; however, we need to ensure that all parties are working off the most up-to-date information to maintain a safe water supply.

Several of our colleagues have written to you since the existence of the report became known requesting information and seeking to review the report matter. We write to echo their concerns,

and to urge you to publish the findings of this study and update EPA policies related to PFAS in a way that will adequately protect the health and well-being of our constituents without delay.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator



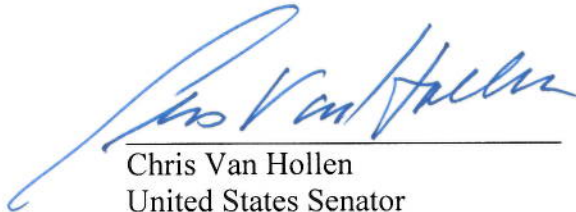
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

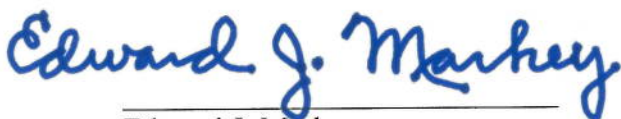


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

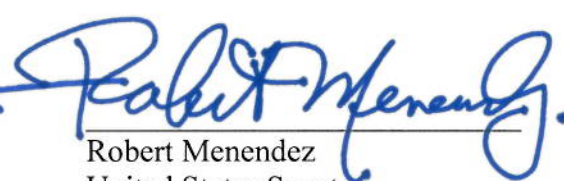


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator


Joe Manchin III
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable James Mattis, Secretary, Department of Defense