

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A draft toxicological profile from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry assesses the risks from exposure to a subset of PFAS chemicals, showing that they pose a significantly greater threat to human health than previously estimated. We, the undersigned public interest organizations, call on you to fulfill your agency's mission and provide Americans with critical information about their health by releasing this document immediately.

PFAS chemicals are potent toxicants linked to cancer, liver and thyroid damage, developmental impacts, and numerous other adverse health effects, including harming our immune systems. The government should be sharing information about these dangers, not hiding it.

In the absence of meaningful action from the Environmental Protection Agency, states have taken the lead to protect us from PFAS chemicals. The ATSDR study can provide vital intelligence to states seeking to clean up PFAS-contaminated drinking water that threatens millions of Americans.

We call on you to release the ATSDR report immediately so Americans know what's in the water we drink, and states, public health officials and local water utilities are armed with the best-available science on these dangerous chemicals. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Health
Clean and Healthy New York
Clean Water Action

Colorado School of Mines
Courage Campaign
CREDO
Daily Kos
Dr. Whyte Pediatrics
Earthjustice
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Environmental Working Group
Friends of the Earth
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Headwater LLC
Health Care Without Harm
Healthy Building Network
Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Hip Hop Caucus
Huron River Watershed Council
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
League of Conservation Voters
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
North Carolina State University
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ohio Environmental Council
Oregon Environmental Council
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
People Concerned About Chemical Safety
River Network
RIVM
Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families
Safer States
Save the River/ Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper

Science and Environmental Health Network

Southern Environmental Law Center

Texas Campaign for the Environment

Toxics Action Center

UltraViolet

Union of Concerned Scientists

University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Vermont Public Interest Research Group

VoteVets

Westfield Residents Advocating for Themselves

Women's Voices for the Earth