Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Granger and Ranking Members Durbin and Visclosky:

We write to you on behalf of our constituents to request your support for various provisions in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Defense appropriations bills, which affect communities that are dealing with contaminated drinking water as a result of the Department of Defense's use of firefighting foam (Aqueous Film-Forming Foam, or AFFF).

Since the 1970s, the Department of Defense (DoD) has used AFFF containing perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). These compounds have been found by a growing volume of peer-reviewed studies to be associated with serious human health risks. In May 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a drinking water health advisory for PFOS and PFOA, and it is currently considering the issuance of a more strict regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Both the EPA and DoD have detected elevated levels of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water at or near almost 400 defense installations. The EPA has also found these chemicals in drinking water at non-DoD public water systems across the United States.

This issue directly affects our constituents and near the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham. For years our constituents have been living with too many questions and not enough answers about the use of AFFF and its impact on their local water quality and health. For this reason we ask for your continued support throughout the conference negotiations process on the specific provisions mentioned below that were also included in the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

We hope that you will support the authorization for $7,000,000 in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to conduct a health

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study on the implications of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination as denoted in Section 316 of the FY 2018 NDAA. Furthermore, we ask that you support an increase of $42,234,000 to the Navy Environmental Restoration account and an increase of $30,000,000 Air Force Environmental Restoration account for PFOS/PFOA remediation.

Water contamination as a result of the military's decades-long use of AFFF is a nationwide problem that the Department of Defense must confront head on. As representatives of some of the first and worst communities dealing with this problem today, we ask for your support of our bipartisan requests for any appropriations agreement.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Brendan Boyle
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress