August 26, 2019

Dear Chairman Pallone:

Thank you for leading efforts to address the risks posed by per- and poly- fluoralkyl substances (PFAS) contamination.

As you know, New Jersey is leading efforts to address PFAS contamination. However, Congress has a critical role to play in support of state efforts.

As Congress finalizes the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2020, we urge you to support the following provisions:

- Quickly phase out military use of PFAS in firefighting foam;
- End the use of PFAS firefighting foams in training exercises;
- End the use of PFAS in military food packaging;
- Require ground and drinking water quality monitoring for PFAS;
- Require the military to share PFAS water monitoring information with adjacent communities;
- Require reporting of industrial discharges of PFAS;
- Ensure proper incineration of military PFAS wastes that ensures no PFAS is emitted to the air;
- Provide guidance on the destruction and disposal of PFAS wastes;
- Accelerate PFAS cleanups at military facilities through the use of cooperative agreements;
- Designate the entire family of PFAS as “hazardous substances” under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act;
- Subject PFAS discharges to regulation under the Clean Water Act, including strengthening sewage sludge rules to protect against use of sewage sludge or biosolids contaminated with PFAS from being ground applied or used as fuel;
- Set a deadline for a health-based drinking water regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act; and
- Provide funding for additional studies, data sharing, and remediation.

These provisions will help New Jersey officials better understand the scope of PFAS contamination through reporting and monitoring, reduce or eliminate ongoing sources of PFAS pollution, and remediate PFAS contamination. PFAS present serious health risks, including
cancer and harm to the reproductive and immune systems, and our state is disproportionately threatened by ongoing and legacy PFAS pollution.

We are grateful for your leadership and urge you to support efforts to address PFAS contamination through the NDAA for FY 2020.

Sincerely,

(alphabetical order)

Clean Water Action, Amy Goldsmith, New Jersey State Director
Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director
Environment New Jersey, Doug O’Malley, Director
New Jersey Sierra Club, Jeff Tittel, Director