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Via Regular Mail & Email

Township of Mansfield
100 Port Murray Road
Port Murray, NJ 07865

RE: PFAS Contamination in Drinking Water

Dear Mansfield Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to ask that you notify residents of the potential harmful contamination of PFAS in their drinking water, groundwater, air, and food supplies.

As you are probably aware, PFAS, which stands for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of man-made, toxic chemicals including PFOA, PFOS and GenX that have been in everyday use for almost 80 years.¹ PFAS are classified as likely human carcinogens, with studies having shown that exposure to the chemicals may cause kidney, liver, and testicular cancer, as well as autoimmune and endocrine disorders in adults. PFAS have also been linked to developmental issues affecting fetuses during pregnancy and infants who breast-feed.²

Nationwide, including New Jersey, drinking water systems have been found contaminated with PFAS. According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), PFAS are pervasive in New Jersey ground water, surface water, fish tissue samples, drinking water and private wells.³ Nearly one in five New Jerseyans receive tap water that contains at least trace amounts of one of these chemicals.⁴ A 2010 NJDEP survey of several dozen drinking water systems found that 70% contained some amount of PFAS.⁵ With studies showing that about 98% of Americans have some level of PFAS in their blood, New Jerseyans are believed to be more at risk due to New Jersey's density and industrial legacy.

¹ Hearing before the Subcommittee on Environment of the Committee on Oversight & Reform, House Of Representatives, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress. *The Devil They Knew: PFAS Contamination and the Need for Corporate Accountability, Part II*, September 10, 2019.

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/GO/GO28/20190724/109847/HHRG-116-GO28-Transcript-20190724.pdf>

² New Jersey Dept. of Law and Public Safety, AG Grewal, *DEP Commissioner Announce 4 New Environmental Lawsuits Focused on Contamination Allegedly Linked to DuPont, Chemours, 3M*, March 27, 2019. <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases19/pr20190327a.html>.

³ New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Science, Research, and Environmental Health, *Investigation of Levels of Perfluorinated Compounds in New Jersey Fish, Surface Water, and Sediment*, (April 9, 2019). Accessed on March 10, 2021.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/publications/Investigation%20of%20Levels%20of%20Perfluorinated%20Compounds%20in%20New%20Jersey%20Fish,%20Surface%20Water,%20and%20Sediment.pdf>

⁴ Hearing before the Subcommittee on Environment, *The Devil They Knew*, September 10, 2019.

⁵ USA TODAY. "New Jersey Approves Drinking Water Standards for Toxic PFAS Chemicals. Will Legal Battles Follow?" <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2020/04/07/new-jersey-approves-drinking-water-standards-toxic-pfas-chemicals/2963032001/>.

In 2018 New Jersey became the first state to adopt a safe drinking water standard for one of the most toxic PFAS compounds called perfluorononanoic acid, or PFNA.⁶ The decision came after the CDC published a major study in June 2018 that found that PFAS could pose threats at levels up to 10 times lower than what the EPA says is safe.⁷ Unfortunately, both the EPA and NJDEP have focused on just two types of the thousands of PFAS chemicals. Namely, PFOS and PFOA. The problem is we don't have all the scientific studies regarding PFAS toxicity or know how much of these chemicals is entering our waterways. The companies that manufactured these chemicals have concealed their data on PFAS for decades. This is evident through past and ongoing litigation regarding PFAS toxicity.⁸

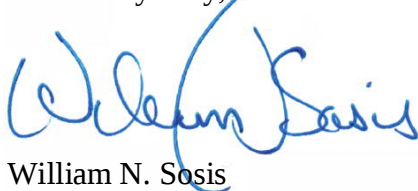
Furthermore, the NJDEP has adopted rule amendments to the Private Well Testing Act (PWTA) that establish drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and specific ground water quality standards for PFOA and PFOS.⁹ But these amendments only came into effect in 2021 and pertain to the sale, rental or new wells of homes within the state of NJ. The NJDEP did not require PFAS testing prior to 2021. In the meantime, people remain uninformed about the contamination of their drinking water, groundwater, air, and food supplies with these chemicals.

But forewarned is forearmed. I am sure the Township appreciates the opportunity this letter presents to protect the life, health and property of its residents by warning them of the harmful effects of PFAS.¹⁰ The Township may offer discounted PFAS testing to its residents who own private wells. It could locate and contract with a certified well-water testing company willing to offer tiered pricing and volume discounts to Mansfield residents. This can ensure that residents do not continue to unwittingly drink, eat, and breath toxic PFAS chemicals that can lead to the harms and diseases discussed above.

Should you wish to contact me, I can be reached by phone at (201) 345-3095 or via e-mail at william.n.sosis@gmail.com.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



William N. Sosis

⁶ 2018 Annual Report, *Protecting People from Harmful Environmental Exposures*, , ATSDR, December 17, 2019. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/2018atsdrannualreport/index.html>.

⁷ *Ibid*.

⁸ “DuPont, 3M Concealed Evidence of PFAS Risks | Union of Concerned Scientists.” Accessed March 10, 2021. <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/duPont-3m-concealed-evidence-pfas-risks>.

⁹ Environmental Law & Policy Monitor. “New Jersey Adopts Stringent PFAS Drinking Water Rules and Adds Compounds to List of Hazardous Substances,” June 11, 2020. <https://www.environmentallawandpolicy.com/2020/06/new-jersey-adopts-stringent-pfas-drinking-water-rules-and-adds-compounds-to-list-of-hazardous-substances/>.

¹⁰ N.J.S.A. 40:72-3. The municipality does not have any power that would conflict with laws pertaining to all municipalities. See also Grogan v. De Sapio, 19 N.J. Super. 469, 479(Law Div. 1952) (“Municipal officers in the discharge of their duties do not act for themselves, but for the public.”).

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