

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3302

June 16, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to you to express our deep concern regarding the January 7, 2021 decision of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under former Administrator Andrew Wheeler to deny a petition under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to require human health and environmental testing on 54 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) linked to the Chemours facility in Fayetteville, North Carolina. We request that you inform us of your plans to reconsider the petition denial and require Chemours to fund studies necessary for North Carolina communities to understand the impacts of long-term PFAS exposure on the health of their residents.

PFAS are “forever chemicals” which are found in numerous everyday household items, human blood, air, water, and soil. According to EPA, PFAS do not break down naturally and are known to cause cancer, birth defects, thyroid disease, hormone disruption, immune system suppression, and other serious effects. As a result of Chemours’ operations in Fayetteville, PFAS have contaminated the Cape Fear River watershed, which serves as the main drinking water source for nearly 300,000 people, and have been found in the bodies of people in several impacted communities, reflecting the presence of these chemicals in groundwater, drinking water, air, and local produce.

On October 14, 2020, concerned about the lack of data on the health impacts of long-term PFAS exposure, the Center for Environmental Health and five NC-based environmental health and justice groups filed a petition under section 21 of TSCA requesting that EPA exercise its authority under section 4(a) of TSCA to require Chemours to fund robust health and environmental testing for 54 PFAS manufactured by Chemours. EPA has the authority and obligation under TSCA to order Chemours to fund the testing necessary to understand how its chemicals are affecting the health of exposed people and the environment. The agency’s own assessments conclude that certain PFAS can accumulate and stay in the human body for long periods of time, resulting in numerous life-threatening health diseases.

Yet in a letter dated January 7, 2021, the EPA under Mr. Wheeler informed the North Carolina groups of its decision to deny the TSCA testing petition. The agency overlooked the health needs of nearly 300,000 people in the Cape Fear River watershed who have directly experienced the health impacts of PFAS contamination. We believe that Cape Fear River communities and North Carolinians must be informed of the health consequences of long-term PFAS exposure and that Chemours has a responsibility under TSCA to fund the research necessary to address their concerns.

As members of Congress, the health, welfare, and safety of our constituents are a shared priority. We urge you to exercise your authority under TSCA to hold Chemours accountable and order the testing necessary to understand the human health effects of PFAS contamination on the people in the Cape Fear River area.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



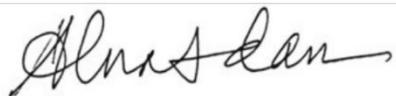
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