



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 24, 2017

Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D.
Director
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
US Department of Health & Human Services
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Fitzgerald:

The presence of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water is a growing national issue, with the number of affected water systems identified throughout the U.S. increasing rapidly. As Health Commissioners and Directors in states that have identified PFAS, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), in local water systems, we request that ATSDR undertakes a longitudinal, national health effects study of communities impacted by PFAS across the country.

Our state health departments, along with other states in the northeastern United States, have been working to address PFAS contamination since 2015, by minimizing exposure to PFAS in drinking water and some states are offering blood testing for affected residents. These efforts are supported by fact sheets, online tools and resources, and assistance with blood testing from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

ATSDR recently released a draft document, "Feasibility Assessment for Epidemiological Studies at Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth, New Hampshire," documenting an approach to appropriate follow-up health studies for children and adults as well as highlighting population-size related issues that our states would be confronted with if we conducted these studies individually.

Our communities are familiar to your staff – Hoosick Falls, Petersburg, and Newburgh in New York; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; North Bennington, Vermont; Warminster and Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; Oscoda and Graying, Michigan. We welcome the opportunity to share additional information about our affected populations as part of a national effort to develop a plan to study health outcomes in multiple PFAS-affected communities.

Through prior communication between the CDC, our departments, and Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, we understand that ATSDR and NCEH are determining if a long-term community health study would answer some questions about the health effects of exposure to PFAS. This letter is our official request for ATSDR to move quickly to launch a longitudinal study of health outcomes in communities affected by PFAS from legacy industrial sources and from firefighting foams used by the military and others.

Sincerely



Howard A. Zucker, MD, JD
Commissioner of Health



Jay Butler, MD
Director of Public Health
Alaska



Nick Lyon
Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Michigan



Lisa Morris, MSSW
Director, Division of Public Health Service
New Hampshire



Rachel Levine, MD
Secretary of Health
Pennsylvania



Mark A. Levine, MD
Commissioner of Health
Vermont