



August 10, 2023

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC

**Re: Requesting All Federal Agencies to Remove Sources of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Environment**

Dear President Biden,

The prevalence and persistence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment are creating substantial risks to public health and ecosystems. The Biden administration acknowledged this pressing concern when it outlined [a series of actions](#) being taken, or planned, by several federal agencies to “[combat] PFAS pollution to safeguard clean drinking water for all Americans.” To better tackle this public health issue, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the Environmental Council of the States, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials request that the administration focus additional federal resources and support to federal agencies and the actions they are undertaking to address PFAS contamination. Because PFAS are used prolifically across manufacturing processes, successful management of PFAS chemicals will require a wide range of federal actions to reduce the daily release of PFAS into the environment and the corresponding risks to public health.

The Biden administration outlined key goals for federal agencies to restrict PFAS from entering our water, air, land, and food; assess and reduce PFAS exposure; clean up existing pollution; and expand health effects information. The Biden administration rightly assigned these actions to multiple agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Defense, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR). The state associations would like to recognize these efforts and bring particular attention to EPA’s efforts with the [PFAS National Leadership Summit](#) on May 22-23, 2018, and its [PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#), which have spearheaded federal activity to address PFAS contamination. Additionally, CDC/ATSDR’s work on the [PFAS exposure assessments](#) and [Multi-site Health Study](#) has been, and will be, important for better understanding the scope of exposure to PFAS in specific communities and for improving our understanding of how PFAS exposures affect human health.

EPA's recently proposed [PFAS drinking water regulation](#) will require the installation of advanced treatment at several thousand water systems which will reduce PFAS contamination in drinking water and increase public health protection. Water systems do not manufacture or generate PFAS and serve as the last line of defense in preventing PFAS contamination from reaching the taps of their customers. While funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will pay for a portion of the total capital costs for advanced treatment for PFAS removal in drinking water across the country, we know additional resources and actions will be needed. The burden of addressing PFAS contamination should not fall on communities served by these water systems, and we cannot fully address PFAS in drinking water without tackling the widespread PFAS contamination throughout the environment. Federal agencies must work to reduce the use of PFAS across a broad range of consumer products and the ultimate release of the substances into our air, water, and soils.

Our associations request that federal agencies, including those identified by the Biden administration, prioritize using their combined regulatory authorities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of PFAS into the environment, and to remediate PFAS contamination that already exists. Similarly, our associations request that the federal agencies charged with furthering our knowledge of the public health risks from PFAS exposures continue to prioritize that work to deepen our understanding of PFAS health effects and better equip regulatory agencies with the information needed to protect public health. Additionally, federal agencies must provide support to states, territories, and localities in communicating about these public health risks with water systems and their communities.

The associations recognize that these are significant requests. Achieving these goals will take time, but they must be accomplished to best protect public health. As EPA follows the regulatory development process with the proposed PFAS drinking water regulation, other federal agencies should continue to develop parallel responses to reduce widespread PFAS contamination. Finally, the associations request that the Biden administration prioritize federal resources and support to state and territorial agencies and their efforts to address PFAS contamination. We appreciate the continued partnership with federal agencies in our efforts to protect public health and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



J. Alan Roberson, P.E.  
Executive Director  
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators



Michael R. Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials



ECOS President, Myra Reece  
Director  
South Carolina Department of Health and  
Environmental Control