



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

The State of Alaska faces a massive wave of costs associated with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. PFAS contamination in Alaska has been confirmed at almost 30 locations to date. We ask you to join the dozens of other state and local governments taking action to hold responsible the manufacturers who knowingly sold these products to Alaskans for their role in paying the tab.

As the impact and scope of PFAS contamination nationally continues to unfold, jurisdictions are filing suits against the bad actors in the chemical industry who consciously disregarded known health and environmental costs while they promoted and profited from these dangerous ‘forever chemicals.’ DuPont and others who profited from these chemicals have been reorganizing to dodge liabilities in response to the wave of pending suits. This is unacceptable. We urge you to speak on behalf of Alaskans and Alaska.

“Threats to Drinking Water and Public Health in Alaska: The Scope of the PFAS Problem, Consequences of Regulator Inaction, and Recommendations,” a peer-reviewed report published by the Alaska Community Action on Toxics in September 2019, documents the concerning situation in Alaska. Protecting human health and the environment in areas that are not under military jurisdiction is likely to cost our state hundreds of millions of dollars. The state should seek relief to cover these costs.

Congressman Don Young, a member of the Congressional PFAS Task Force, helped the House pass H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019. This legislation would require the Environmental Protection Agency to declare two PFAS as hazardous substances eligible for Superfund cleanup and implement a requirement that polluters pay for remediation. The executive branch threatened a veto, effectively ending that option for federal help. This is why state action is critical.

The State of Alaska should take urgent action by bringing suit against the appropriate manufacturers and distributors of the PFAS-containing firefighting foams that contaminate Alaska. Please instruct the Attorney General to do so as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Senator Tom Begich



Senator Click Bishop



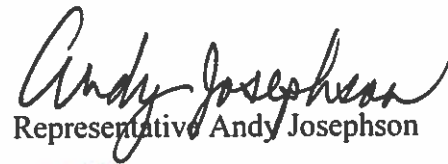
Representative Harriet Drummond



Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson



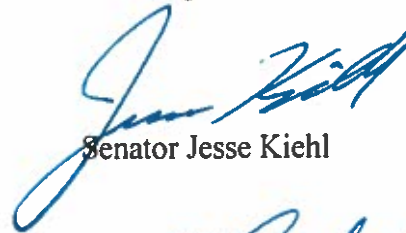
Representative Sara Hannan



Representative Andy Josephson



Senator Scott Kawasaki



Senator Jesse Kiehl



Representative Bart Lebon



Representative Ivy Spohnholz



Senator Gary Stevens



Representative Andi Story



Representative Geran Tarr



Representative Chris Tuck



Representative Adam Wool



Representative Tiffany Zulkosky