

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: Support for S. 1907, the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act of 2021

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of our members, partners, and community advocates across the country, we write in support of S. 1907, the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act of 2021, a bill that would establish deadlines for EPA to determine how to address industrial discharges of PFAS under the Clean Water Act. A version of the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act was included in H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act, and H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act, both of which passed the House.

We urge the Environment and Public Works Committee to support this critical legislation.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of over 5,000 synthetic compounds used in a variety of industrial processes and consumer products from non-stick cookware to stain-resistant coatings and grease-proof packaging. Often referred to as “forever chemicals,” PFAS chemicals are extremely persistent in the environment and the human body, and many have been linked at very low doses to serious health harms, including cancer, damage to the reproductive and immune system, reducing the efficacy of vaccines, and thyroid and kidney disease.

According to recent [analysis](#), nearly 30,000 industrial facilities could be discharging PFAS into the air and water. Industrial discharges of PFAS waste threaten the drinking water for millions of Americans, including vulnerable communities in Latino, low-income, rural and [environmental justice](#) communities who are already overburdened by pollution.

While some states like [Michigan](#) have taken steps to curb industrial discharges, most have not. Unfortunately, recent action by EPA falls short of what is needed to sufficiently address industrial discharges of PFAS both in terms of scope and urgency.

The Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act of 2021 would establish important deadlines for EPA to take action to curb industrial discharges of PFAS, including requiring the agency to establish water quality standards within three years and establish effluent limitation guidelines and pretreatment standards for nine categories of point sources that are likely discharging PFAS within four years.

We strongly support S. 1907 and urge its inclusion as part of a larger PFAS legislative package.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in addressing the PFAS contamination crisis, and we hope you will swiftly enact impactful responses to our nation's needs in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our communities from these toxic chemicals.

Sincerely,

Advance Carolina
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie
Alabama Rivers Alliance
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
American Sustainable Business Council
Anthropocene Alliance
Black Warrior Riverkeeper
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Cahaba River Society
Cahaba Riverkeeper
Cape Fear River Watch
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Progressive Reform
Center for Public Environmental Oversight
Charleston Waterkeeper

Children's Environmental Health Network
Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper
Choices Interlinking
Church of the Living God
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB)
Clean Cape Fear
Clean Water Action
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Common Ground Consulting, LLC
Community Action Works Campaigns
Community Water Center
Congaree Riverkeeper
Consumer Reports
Coosa Riverkeeper
Crawford Stewardship Project
Defend Our Health
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Duke University
Earthjustice

Eastern Panhandle (WV) Green
Coalition
Ecology Center
Endangered Habitats League
Environment America
Environmental Justice Task Force in
Tucson
Environmental Protection Network
Environmental Working Group
Family Farm Defenders
Fannie Lou Hamer Center for Change
Fight For Zero
Food & Water Watch
For Love of Water (FLOW)
Friends of the Detroit River/Detroit River
Public Advisory Council
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
Friends of Toppenish Creek
Gas Free Seneca
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network
Green Science Policy Institute
GreenCAPE
GreenLatinos
Gunpowder RIVERKEEPER
Harpeth River Conservancy
Haw River Assembly
Healthy Gulf
Hometown Action
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
Kentucky Resources Council
Kootenai Environmental Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American
Citizens (LULAC)
Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Louisiana Green Corps
Lynnhaven River NOW
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water

Miami Waterkeeper
Michigan League of Conservation
Voters
Midwest Environmental Advocates
Military Poisons
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Mississippi Rising Coalition
Mississippi River Collaborative
Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper
Missouri NAACP
Moms for a Nontoxic New York
Mountain Watershed Association
MountainTrue
Nantucket Land Council, Inc.
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers
Trade Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NC Conservation Network
NJ Audubon
Ogeechee Riverkeeper
Oregon Environmental Council
OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental
Coalition
Pax Christi USA, New Orleans
Peconic Baykeeper
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
People's Justice Council
PfoaProjectNY
Physicians for Social Responsibility
PolicyLink
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Public Interest Research Group
Puget Soundkeeper
Rachel Carson Council
River Network
Riverkeeper
Rockbridge Area Conservation Council
Rogue Riverkeeper

Rural Advancement Fund of the
National Sharecroppers Fund, Inc
Rural Coalition
Safer States
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
Satilla Riverkeeper
Save RGV
Save The Sound
SC Idle No More, SCIAC
Science and Environmental Health
Network
Seneca Lake Guardian
Sierra Club
Social Science Environmental Health
Research Institute (Northeastern
University)
Southeast Rural Community Assistance
Project
Southern Environmental Law Center
SouthWings
St. Johns Riverkeeper
Steps Coalition
Suncoast Waterkeeper
Surfrider Foundation
Sustain Charlotte
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville
Tennessee Riverkeeper

TerraScapes Environmental
Testing for Pease
The Alliance for the Great Lakes
The Downstream Project
The People's Justice Council
The Rising Youth
The Water Collaborative of Greater New
Orleans
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Tree Fredericksburg
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Twin harbors waterkeeper
Union of Concerned Scientists
Verde
Vermont Conservation Voters
Waterkeeper Alliance
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Waterway Advocates
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Winyah Rivers Alliance
Wisconsin EcoLatinos
Women's Voices for the Earth
WV Citizen Action Group
Your Turnout Gear and PFOA
Zero Waste Washington

CC:

Members of the EPW Committee
Senator Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Mitch McConnell, Senate Republican Leader