Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue to actively engage in assisting the State of Michigan's and the Department of Defense's efforts to address serious public health threats stemming from exposure to perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) across multiple communities in our state. This problem is of such severity that the State of Michigan recently created a PFAS Action Response Team. We also believe that further engagement by the EPA on this growing problem is consistent with your stated goal of refocusing the agency on actions that directly protect public health and safety.

As you are aware, these substances break down very slowly in the environment and remain in the blood and organs of exposed humans and wildlife for years. Exposure to these chemical compounds are linked to cancer as well as thyroid, kidney, liver, and reproductive problems. Over the past several months, a growing list of communities that span the state of Michigan are uncovering alarmingly high levels of PFOA and PFOS in soil, ground and drinking waters.

- Tainted soil and groundwater in Western Michigan have been found to contain PFOS and PFOA concentrations as high as 37,800 parts-per-trillion (ppt), more than 500 times the EPA's health advisory level of 70 ppt. In addition, PFOA and PFOS have been found in raw and treated water in Ann Arbor.

- PFOA and PFOS have also been detected in waters and fish across Michigan, including in the Au Sable River, Flint River, Kalamazoo River, Muskegon River, Saginaw River, St. Joseph River, Tahquamenon River, Dead River, Thunder Bay River, Rogue River and St. Marys River; as well as in parts of Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie.

- PFOA and PFOS from Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) used at active and decommissioned military bases have leached on and off-base. In Oscoda, PFOS has been identified in a lake near a legacy Air Force base at levels that reportedly exceed 100,000 ppt, as well as in private drinking wells of surrounding homes. These chemicals have also been discovered in and around Camp Grayling National Guard training base in Grayling and in private drinking wells near the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force base in Marquette.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for providing our offices with information on EPA's engagement on this matter to date.

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We look forward to your expedient response.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator

GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator

FRED UPTON
Member of Congress

DANIEL KILDEE
Member of Congress

DAVE TROTT
Member of Congress

DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress

SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress

JACK BERGMAN
Member of Congress

PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress

TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress

JUSTIN AMASH
Member of Congress

MIKE BISHOP
Member of Congress

BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. Bob Kaplan, Action Region 5 Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency