

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

We write to request information related to EPA's nationwide PFAS Action Plan and other related actions. The PFAS Action Plan, which EPA released on February 14, 2019, did not include a commitment to promulgate a drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS. EPA also failed to release its groundwater cleanup guidelines for PFOS and PFOA in tandem with the PFAS Action Plan, despite announcing¹ that it would complete these guidelines by Fall, 2018.

The Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Defense all participated in the interagency review of EPA's PFAS Action Plan. It is also our understanding that the groundwater cleanup guidelines for PFOS and PFOA have been held up at OMB since August 2018 due to an interagency dispute² related to how stringent the guidelines should be. Finally, we have also been informed that in at least one instance, the United States Air Force has diverted funds intended for a site cleanup of non-PFAS contamination to PFAS-related cleanup efforts.

So that we may better understand the views of the Agencies involved in the finalization of the PFAS Action Plan and groundwater cleanup guidelines, please provide us with responses to the following requests by March 22, 2019:

1. Copies of all documents exchanged between HHS and EPA regarding the PFAS Action Plan or the groundwater cleanup guidelines for PFOS and PFOA.
2. Copies of all documents exchanged between OMB and HHS regarding the PFAS Action Plan or the groundwater cleanup guidelines for PFOS and PFOA.

For purposes of this letter, "documents" includes, but is not limited to, comments, notes, emails, legal and other memoranda, white papers, scientific references, letters, telephone logs, text messages, meeting minutes and calendars, photographs, slides and presentations. In the case of meetings, calls, or other oral communications, please include the date, time, and location at

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-kicks-national-leadership-summit-pfas>

² <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/energy/article/2019/01/epa-ignores-cdc-guidelines-in-chemical-cleanup-plan-1067544>

which such communications took place, a list of the individuals who participated, as well as a description of the communication.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these requests. If you or members of your staff have any questions regarding these requests please contact Michal Freedhoff on the Environment and Public Works Committee staff at 202-224-8832, Yogin Kothari on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee staff at 202-224-2627, Elizabeth Letter on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee staff at 202-224-0767, or John Quirk on the Armed Services Committee staff at 202-224-8625.

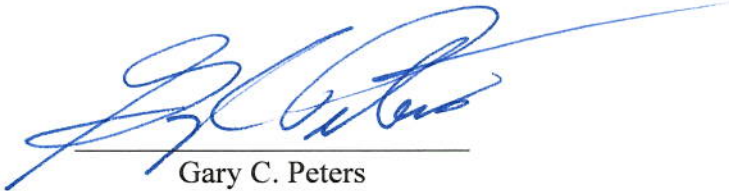
Sincerely yours,



Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions Committee



Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Environment and Public
Works Committee



Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member
Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
Committee



Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee