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**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We write to request more information about the Department of Defense's (DOD) decision to delay clean-up of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pollution from military sites across the country, including six in Michigan. The DOD delayed these cleanup timelines with no public announcement or explanation, and the Pentagon still has not provided a clear rationale for these changes.<sup>1</sup> We urge you to immediately reverse these clean-up delays, restore the earlier remediation timetables as applicable, and provide greater transparency to affected communities moving forward.

PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals,” are linked to a host of harmful health outcomes, and communities on and near military bases are exposed at a higher rate due to the DOD's use of PFAS-containing firefighting foams and other industrial solvents in training exercises.<sup>2</sup>

Under the Superfund law (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA), DOD must investigate and take action in response to known or suspected PFAS releases to the environment.<sup>3</sup> DOD is also charged under that law with collaborating with communities and other stakeholders to ensure military families and their neighbors are not kept in the dark about these persistent threats to their health and environment.<sup>4</sup> For the sites in Michigan where DOD has confirmed that remediation is necessary—including Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Wurtsmith Air Force Base, KI Sawyer Air Force Base,

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<sup>1</sup> *PFAS cleanups delayed by years at Michigan military sites*, Bridge Michigan (Sept. 3, 2025) ([bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/pfas-cleanups-delayed-by-years-at-michigan-military-sites/](https://bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/pfas-cleanups-delayed-by-years-at-michigan-military-sites/)).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense, PFAS 101: Overview of CERCLA ([www.acq.osd.mil/eie/ee/ecc/pfas/pfas101/cercla.html](https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/ee/ecc/pfas/pfas101/cercla.html)) (accessed Oct. 20, 2025).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

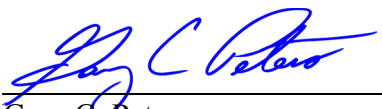
Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Kellogg Air National Guard Base, and Kincheloe Air Force Base—preparatory clean-up work is being delayed by as much as six or seven years.<sup>5</sup>

Those living near military installations deserve answers on what these delays mean and why DOD decided to slow these efforts. We ask for written answers to the following questions within 30 days of receipt of this letter:

1. Why did DOD delay estimated end dates for remedial investigation and feasibility studies at nearly 140 PFAS-contaminated military sites across the country?
  - a. Why did DOD only recently publish this updated timetable that was dated back to March 2025?
  - b. Has DOD made updates to this timetable since March 2025? If so, please provide the latest information.
2. Has the DOD conducted an impact assessment to understand how these delays may further expose military families and their neighbors to harmful levels of PFAS? Please provide that assessment or explain why this was not assessed.
3. Please explain the decision to delay preparatory clean-up work (i.e., was it due to lack of resources, lack of personnel, new information regarding the prevalence of PFAS, or some other reason)?
  - a. Please detail the reason for delays at each impacted Michigan site: Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Wurtsmith Air Force Base, KI Sawyer Air Force Base, Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Kellogg Air National Guard Base, and Kincheloe Air Force Base.
4. What steps, if any, has DOD taken to communicate these planned delays with impacted communities? Please provide documentation of these communications or explain why these steps were not taken.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters

United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs



Elissa Slotkin

United States Senator

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<sup>5</sup> Department of Defense, *Progress at the 723 Installations Being Assessed for PFAS Use or Potential Release* (Mar. 31, 2025) ([www.acq.osd.mil/eie/ee/ecc/pfas/docs/data/DoD-PFAS-Progress-31MAR25.pdf](http://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/ee/ecc/pfas/docs/data/DoD-PFAS-Progress-31MAR25.pdf)).