

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 5, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler,

I am writing today in regards to recent media coverage about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) action to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS and PFOS). As you know, PFAS contaminants, including the chemical GenX, have been found in the Cape Fear River in North Carolina, which is the primary source of drinking water for multiple North Carolina counties and communities.

Unfortunately, this is not our state's first experience with water contamination. Three decades after trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) contamination was discovered at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, we still have North Carolina families reeling from its devastating effects. We cannot risk repeating history. I urge EPA, under your leadership, to use all available resources to fully address PFAS contamination. Additionally, please provide, in detail:

1. EPA's current approach to addressing PFAS contamination;
2. All of EPA's community engagement and outreach efforts to learn how PFAS is affecting individual communities across the country;
3. What existing authorities are available to EPA to regulate PFAS;
4. EPA's engagement with the state of North Carolina, as well as other state and local partners; and
5. All future regulatory actions EPA plans to take with regard to PFAS.

Furthermore, I recognize Congress must also act to address PFAS contamination, which is why I will be partnering with my colleagues in the Senate to build upon our efforts from the 115th Congress to give EPA and states the necessary tools to adequately deal with the repercussions of PFAS. Specifically, I will again be cosponsoring the PFAS Accountability Act and the PFAS Detection Act, directing federal agencies to expeditiously enter into or amend cooperative agreements with States for removal and remedial actions to address PFAS contamination¹ and directing the U.S. Geological Survey to perform a nationwide survey of PFAS,² respectively. At

¹ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3381/text?r=6&s=2>

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3382/text?r=5&s=2>

the appropriate time, I will be seeking your agency's technical expertise to ensure our efforts are complementary to EPA's.

Both Congress and EPA have a duty to protect public health. To this end, as I seek to advance legislation to protect North Carolinians and their communities from PFAS contamination, I expect EPA to use its existing authorities to do the same. I look forward to partnering with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thom Tillis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thom" and last name "Tillis" clearly distinguishable.

Thom Tillis
United States Senator