

February 14th, 2022
Wisconsin Natural Resource Board
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Members of the Natural Resources Board,

Thank you for providing thoughtful consideration regarding the PFAS crisis facing our State. I am present today as Chairperson for the Town of Peshtigo representing a population of 4,000. Our community has been gripped by the PFAS nightmare for four exhausting years with over 1/3 of our Town parcels contaminated with toxic PFAS. Many of my constituents, including my own family, have discovered their private drinking water wells to be unsafe for human consumption. The fear, anxiety and desperation that accompany such a realization are toxic in and of themselves; but to conceive of having unknowingly exposed our children to poison angers me to my very core. It's what compelled me to run for Town chair and what drives my daily quest for the regulation of safe surface, ground and drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS. Town of Peshtigo residents are relying on each of you, serving on the Natural Resources Board, to act in the interest of protecting their health and quite honestly in the interest of protecting your own as well. The extent of our Towns crisis is clear, what remains unclear is how to hold the responsible party accountable if our State fails to formalize PFAS standards. Without State standards, our Town and its residents will be left helpless and completely powerless; forced to continue drinking poison simply because we don't possess the financial resources to fix it. The company who poisoned our drinking water and environment does possess the financial resources and should be accountable to fixing it. However, without enforceable standards there is no way they will provide safe water, no way they will do right by those they have harmed.

I have been advocating action for so long that I pause, wondering what can be said to compel your support for these desperately needed standards. For some of you, it may be the recent news of PFAS at your very doorstep, for the rest of you I genuinely hope it doesn't require such a thing to compel you toward action. The issue of PFAS is not going away, it cannot be ignored and we cannot pretend that it will resolve itself; when it comes to PFAS, ignorance is not bliss, it is deadly. Towns like ours cannot afford to wait for the EPA to set and implement standards, our residents don't have another 3-7 years to wait. Our crisis is NOW and standards are needed NOW. Like numerous other states, including MN and MI, it's time for WI to establish its own standards. This is not the time to follow, it is the time to LEAD. On behalf of 4,000 Town of Peshtigo residents I implore you to be on the right side of history; help us, protect us, do what the science has repeatedly proven necessary and set safe PFOA and PFOS standards for Wisconsin today!

When you settle in this evening and close your eyes reflecting on today's events, if you have taken action to set safe standards, then rest well knowing your actions were justified by science and your courage and leadership has helped save lives.

Thank you,
Cindy Boyle: Town of Peshtigo – Chairperson
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