

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

The Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act required the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop and share with Congress an acceleration strategy for the remediation of contamination from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances at military installations and the surrounding communities by June 16, 2026.¹ We write to underscore the urgency of this issue and call for the immediate completion of this statutorily required acceleration strategy. There have been significant PFAS cleanup delays at hundreds of military installations nationwide. We are concerned about the DOD's long-term strategy to address these contaminants and urge your direct and immediate attention to this matter.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemical substances pose an ongoing and immediate health risk to millions of Americans. Research provided by DOD suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes such as reproductive issues and increased risk of some cancers, and the DOD PFAS Task Force stated that reports indicate most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS and have PFAS in their blood.² Further, EPA's water monitoring data and state tests found that PFAS have been detected in tap water serving millions nationwide.³ This is a widespread and urgent public health crisis.

Nationally, there are over 700 military sites with known or suspected PFAS contamination from DoD activities.⁴ We are extremely concerned about DOD's efforts to permanently address this contamination to support the members of our Armed Forces and the surrounding communities, as DOD has significantly delayed progress. In 2025, DOD announced cleanup delays at over 100 sites and announced additional delays at over 200 sites this year.⁵ Communities were assured they would receive support to address this contamination and now are delayed up to 20 years.⁶ It is unacceptable that DOD has continued to deprioritize these cleanup efforts despite its legal obligation and continued resources and direction to do so from Congress.

Since 2017, Congress has appropriated nearly \$2.5 billion to address the use of certain PFAS chemicals in and around military communities and enacted several measures to support remediation efforts.⁷ The Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act required DOD to provide Congress an accelerated strategy for PFAS cleanup focused on four key components: the criteria used to prioritize cleanup actions at military installations

¹ National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law No: 119-60) – [Section 322](#)

² Department of Defense – [PFAS Frequently Asked Questions](#)

³ Environmental Protection Agency – [Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule](#)

⁴ Department of Defense – [PFAS Data: Cleanup of PFAS](#)

⁵ NOTUS – [The Pentagon Quietly Delayed PFAS Cleanup Across Nearly 200 Military Sites](#)

⁶ i.e.

⁷ U.S. Government Accountability Office – [Persistent Chemicals: DOD Needs to Provide Congress More Information on Costs Associated with Addressing PFAS](#)

based on the risk to human health and the environment, the timelines for completing each phase of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup process at each facility, a plan for deploying additional resources to cut down remediation delays, and new benchmarks to measure how well the military is performing at reducing risk through its PFAS response efforts⁸.

Our communities continue to be burdened by substantial PFAS cleanup delays, and we are eager to review DOD's overdue acceleration strategy. We urge the Department of Defense to prioritize the development and implementation of this required and overdue long-term strategy to clean up PFAS contaminants at and surrounding military sites.

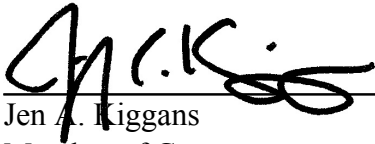
Sincerely,



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

⁸ National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law No: 119-60) – [Section 322](#)