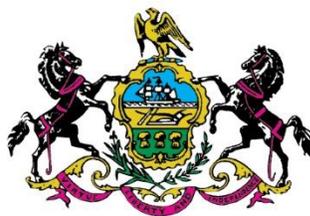


19TH DISTRICT
STATE SENATOR
CAROLYN T. COMITTA

457 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
SENATE BOX 203019
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3019
717-787-5709
FAX: 717-787-4384

17 EAST GAY STREET • SUITE 301
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380
610-692-2112
FAX: 610-436-1721



Senate of Pennsylvania



CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FLAG SUBCOMMITTEE

EMAIL: SenatorComitta@pasenate.com
WEBSITE: www.pasenate.com
TWITTER: @SenatorComitta
FACEBOOK: @SenatorComitta
INSTAGRAM: @SenatorComitta

April 21, 2022

Environmental Quality Board (EQB)
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

RE: Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule (#7-569)

I am writing today in response to the proposed regulations that will better protect Pennsylvanians' drinking water from two forms of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds.

While this is an important and historic first step, there is much more that can be done. I encourage the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to use this opportunity to enact even stronger protections on the impact of PFAS and significantly expand the monitoring and reporting of PFAS in our water, soil, and air.

These much-needed standards are vital to safeguarding the health, well-being and constitutional rights of all Pennsylvanians. According to DEP's report, about one-third of Pennsylvania's public water systems contain PFAS contaminants. This does not include data on private well sources, which also serve millions of residents. It is critically important to develop a clearer understanding of the proliferation of PFAS in our environment.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently working on a PFAS Roadmap that would establish federal guidelines. However, given the current lack of maximum containment levels (MCL) at the federal level, states across the nation have enacted a patchwork of policies aimed at regulating and limiting these "forever chemicals."

For the Commonwealth to truly be a leader in protecting our environmental health and public health from PFAS, we should consider:

- Setting limits on all 8 compounds in the PFAS family as identified by DEP (such as PFNA, PFHSS, PFHPA, PFBS, PFHxA).
- Setting lower limits. The proposed rule would set an MCL of 14 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 18 ppt for PFOS.

Several surrounding states have already placed these strict limitations. In New Jersey, limits have been set slightly lower (at 13 ppt) for PFOA, in addition to regulating PFOS and PFNA. New

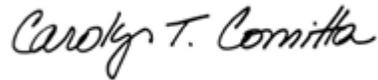
York has adopted MCLs of 10 ppt for PFOA and PFOS and is currently considering expanding that to include other chemicals in the PFAS family. Other states, like Maine, are also being proactive in banning the sale of products containing PFAS.

In closing, by considering these proposed rules, Pennsylvania is beginning to send the message that we take PFAS and their potential for long-lasting, wide-ranging, and severe health impacts seriously. The regulations must ensure that any and all loopholes are closed, no industries are exempt, and polluters will be held accountable.

The Environmental Rights Amendment guarantees Pennsylvanians the right to “clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment.” I urge the DEP to set strict safety standards on all PFAS chemicals for both public and private water sources and work to lower the proposed set of maximum contaminant levels. These much-needed standards are vital to safeguarding the health, well-being and constitutional rights of all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn T. Comitta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Comitta
State Senator – District 19