

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; Glendon King; Franzese, Evan B.; Eyster, Emily; IRRC
Cc: c-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule (#7-569)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing 4 - #7-569

Testimony date: 3/24/2022 12:00:00 AM

Testimony location: Webex

Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule (#7-569).

Commenter Information:

Atticus Hempel
(atticus.hempel@gmail.com)
500 College Ave
Swarthmore, PA 19081 US

Comments entered:

Testimony given at the March 24, 2022 public hearing:

Hello,

I am Zachary "Atticus" Hempel, from Swarthmore, PA.

I hope not to take too much of your time today

For those who don't know due to PFAS's use in firefighting foam it most commonly plagues our military personnel.

And as someone who was debating attending West Point or the Coast Guard Academy for college

it pains me to see how we are treating these populations.

One would expect that – outside of combat – we, as a nation, treat any citizen, but especially those citizens willing to stand up and protect the liberty of others with the respect that they are due. But PFAST is clearly an example of how that is not the case.

As I am sure needs no reminding, PFAST chemicals are dangerous and toxic. We should be protecting our military from them, and not subjecting our military to them.

But the problem does not end with our military.

These toxic chemicals are prolific by nature and thus through our negligence to our military we are also subjecting our citizens to a similar treatment.

In Pennsylvania, we know that at least 17 non-military sites were contaminated by PFAST as a consequence of our actions.

All I, and I am sure many of those here today, ask is that we treat our military with the respect and care that it is due. That we do not poison our citizens. And that we stand with liberty – not against – for that is what we are doing when we poison those who fight for it.

But what does this mean? What can I, and my fellow testimonial providers, ask?

For one, please, take swift action to implement the necessary safety procedures to limit as much PFAST as possible from entering the lives of our soldiers and citizens.

For two, More protective standards are needed as the current propositions are not strict enough

Three, More PFAS compounds should require MCL's

Four, Monitoring must be rigorous and ongoing – we should not wait until January of 2024 to enact this vital legislation

And lastly, we must ensure equal protection for all – I ask, why must those not connected to public water systems be cast aside from this important protection?

Implementing legislation addressing these concerns would ensure the safety of our public from these dangerous PFAS chemicals.

Thus, I thank Pennsylvania for its consideration of this subject, and I ask that we take our legislation a step further to be an example – a lead for other states to follow – of how to truly protect our citizens.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov