

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3603

Dear Leader Schumer,

We write in strong support of the INVEST Act (H.R. 3684), and write to focus your attention on the provisions that address PFAS pollution in our communities and to urge you to include these provisions and other key measures in infrastructure legislation under consideration in the Senate.

More than 200 million American are likely drinking PFAS in their tap water, and these “forever” chemicals have so far been confirmed in the drinking water of more than 2,300 communities, including 14 communities in New York. Recent studies suggest the number of communities with contaminated water is actually far greater.

The risks posed by PFAS in our drinking water are well understood. PFAS has been linked by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serious health problems, including cancer, harm to the reproductive system, and harm to the immune system. Recent studies suggest that high levels of PFAS in our blood may make our vaccines less effective and may make cases of Covid 19 more severe.

Some states, including New York, have set their own standards for PFAS in drinking water, and the Environmental Protection agency is moving forward with a national drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS. These drinking water standards will require important new investments by our local water utilities, and those costs should not be met by drinking water consumers alone. Many of our rural residents are drinking contaminated well water and will also need assistance.

Like the American Jobs Plan, which called for \$10 billion to remediate PFAS, H.R. 3684 includes important PFAS provisions to protect our drinking water, including:

- \$500 million to help our local water utilities filter PFAS from the tap water being sent into our homes, schools, and businesses.
- \$200 million in annual funding to help our wastewater treatment plants address discharges of PFAS wastes and a requirement that industrial dischargers alert plant operators.
- Deadlines for EPA to set standards for drinking water and industrial discharges of PFAS

into water supplies.

No one should have to worry about the safety of their drinking water. The provisions in H.R. 3684 are an important first step. We urge you to make PFAS pollution a priority in infrastructure legislation under consideration by the Senate.

Sincerely,

Brian Bushner

Clean and Healthy New York

Emily Marpe

Environmental Advocates NY

Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition

Moms for a Non-Toxic NY

New York League of Conservation Voters

New York Public Interest Research Group

New York Sustainable Business Council

PfoaProjectNY

Riverkeeper, Inc.

Stewart Air National Guard Base Restoration Advisory Council Community Members

WE ACT for Environmental Justice