To: Enck, Judith[Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
From: Distefano, Nichole
Sent: Fri 5/13/2016 8:06:52 PM
Subject: Re: Gibson Calls For Investigation Into Drinking Water Contamination (Updated)

Judith

This may come up next week in a hearing that Stan has to do.

Can you send me a blurb we can give him to say on our engagement?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 12, 2016, at 9:23 AM, Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hard to tell. This has not been something that has gone well for them in the past but one never knows.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On May 12, 2016, at 9:22 AM, Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov> wrote:
>
>> Thanks
>>
>> Do you think they will actually do hearings?
>>
>> **From:** Distefano, Nichole
>> **Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2016 9:22 AM
>> **To:** Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>
>> **Subject:** Re: Gibson Calls For Investigation Into Drinking Water Contamination (Updated)
>>
>> Thanks Judith. Barry also forwarded. I've made sure folks here are aware.
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>> On May 12, 2016, at 9:18 AM, Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov> wrote:

Gibson Calls For Investigation Into Drinking Water Contamination (Updated)

Rep. Chris Gibson called on Wednesday for an investigation into the state and federal government's response to the contamination of drinking water in the upstate communities of Hoosick Falls and Petersburgh.

The state ultimately was able to provide a new filtration system as they seek to also identify new potential sources of drinking water following tests that showed high levels of the chemical PFOA.

Manufacturing plants in the area, including Saint-Gobain, are believed to be the source of the contamination.

But Gibson, who retires at the end of the year, believes the cause of the contamination, as well as the responses from the state and federal agencies tasked with overseeing clean drinking water, needs to be assessed.

"This situation has continued to evolve and, in some ways, worsen over the past year," Gibson wrote in a letter this week to Rep. Jason Chaffetz, the Utah Republican who chairs the House's Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

"Although there have been actions taken to address these problems, many of my constituents are deeply concerned with potential ongoing health risks to their families, delayed and confused responses by the state and federal agencies involved, and lack of accountability to find out what happened and why it was allowed to go on after the initial detection of the contamination of their water supply."

The letter comes after the Democratic-led Assembly initially planned to hold hearings on water contamination issues around the state, but ultimately declined to after the passage of the budget in March.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo earlier this year announced the formation of a task force of state officials that would respond to drinking water contamination issues immediately when they arise.

Updated: In a statement, one of the Democrats who hopes to replace Gibson in the 19th congressional district, Zephyr Teachout, backed the call for hearings.

“Clean water is our precious natural resource—essential for our economy, precious to our environment and essential for our health,” she said. “I applaud Congressman Gibson’s call for federal hearings on the crisis in Hoosick Falls,” she said. “Big corporations and powerful insiders have warped the laws that should protect our communities and shut out the voices of the people whose health and livelihood are at stake.”