United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 29, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write today to thank the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for hosting the first per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) community engagement event in Exeter, New Hampshire.

Granite Staters have been national leaders in advocating for the health and safety of their families and neighbors, and this productive forum was an important first step in ensuring that communities impacted by PFAS contamination have a seat at the table and an opportunity for their voices to be heard. We are hopeful that the EPA will take the concerns and recommendations that were raised by community leaders, as well as state and local officials, to help inform future meaningful federal action on these chemicals. This includes advancing conversations and solutions that consider the entire class of PFAS chemicals.

As you know, PFAS contamination in drinking water is an issue not only in our home state of New Hampshire, but across the country. It is critical for the EPA to take immediate action to protect citizens from further contamination and ensure that responsible parties are held liable for addressing any resulting health and safety concerns.

In order to address this problem, the EPA has said it is "beginning the necessary steps to propose designating PFOA and PFOS as 'hazardous substances' through one of the available statutory mechanisms, including potentially Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 102." By doing so, PFAS will be covered under the EPA's CERCLA, and therefore require responsible parties to be held accountable for any future release. It is appropriate that the EPA evaluates the necessary steps for such a designation, which has support throughout communities affected by PFAS contamination, and we respectfully request additional information about the steps and timeline the EPA is taking to consider this proposal.

As EPA staff travels to other communities impacted by PFAS contamination, we encourage the agency to continue listening, and to not lose sight of the urgent need to move forward in protecting our citizens and our natural resources from these toxic chemicals. Hosting similar events in other regions of the country is important, but we hope that the agency will take action

to address PFAS concurrently with future engagement events instead of waiting until they are all completed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing more about what next steps the EPA will take to protect New Hampshire and our country from PFAS contamination.

Sincerely,

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator