

Good Evening. My name is Nancy Harrington and beside me is Barbara Healey. We are both Town Councilors for the Town of Merrimack, NH. We have been authorized to speak for the entire Town Council during this event.

Over two and a half years ago, water from the tap of a local industrial company was identified as containing PFAS, an unregulated contaminant. The NH Department of Environmental Services was notified and thus started a long, and complex journey that identified a large airborne plume of PFAS from a local industrial company that leached into not only private water wells but also our town water supply. You have and will continue to hear the many facets of this journey from not only concerned citizen groups, and state departments but also local government representatives. We are representative of that local government constituent. In the beginning, many months were geared to working with local communities also affected by this contamination plume and NH Department of DES. It must also be remembered that at the time the interim advisory standard was 400 ppt. It became quickly evident that this level was not based on any science and was only advisory, therefore a more valid standard needed to be set. Much pressure was placed on the Federal EPA to re-examine this standard and provide a more authoritative, reasonable and verifiable level. In 2016 the federal EPA revised the lifetime health advisory to 70ppt. Since our town has a separate private water company that is responsible for our town water supply, we have focused our attention on working with the NH Department of Environmental Services with remediation for private well owners who have been identified as the most in need of remediation based upon the higher levels of PFAS. It is my understanding that the Merrimack Village District, our town water supplier, is represented today and the Town officials would like to publicly support the efforts of the District in their continued interest and activity to meet the safe water needs to our citizens.

We would also like to thank the State Legislators in enacting stronger air emission and groundwater regulations and other supportive measures to enhance the ability of the NH Department of Environmental Services to examine more thoroughly the impact of air and water contamination.

A very active Concerned Citizens group has also been instrumental in maintaining the focus of all groups on the health impact of PFAS contamination on the health of our citizens.

We have all been waiting for additional studies to be available to inform us about the safe level determinations. With the recent release of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) report, it is now time to examine, analyze and determine remediation efforts. The results of this report as well as other valid scientific studies, must be examined to reset the standards. Obviously, the federal EPA lifetime standards must be re-examined in light of this report and other studies, but it is the state who will be able to move more quickly to establish a state standard for PFAS. Therefore, we would strongly encourage the state of NH to convene a PFAS science panel to explore all the data to determine a state PFAS drinking water standard. The federal EPA should be supportive of these state efforts and assist them in any way possible.

In closing, all of us, must work together and advocate in good faith to identify and take active steps to remediate this problem and ensure that the drinking water is safe for all of our citizens.