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May 16, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I write regarding the ongoing perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) water contamination issue affecting several New Hampshire communities. The need for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address uncertainty regarding the level of PFOA in drinking water which should prompt treatment before the water is used is immediate and growing. My constituents have alerted me to research released on-line recently by Megan Romano, a postdoctoral scholar in the Brown University School of Public Health as part of a study lead by Joseph Braun, Brown University assistant professor of epidemiology, which reported that "women with the top-quartile serum PFOA concentrations during pregnancy had a 77 percent greater risk of ending any breastfeeding by three months and a 41 percent greater risk of ending any breastfeeding by six months compared to women with the lowest-quartile PFOA concentrations. These should be on our radar as chemicals that might be affecting women's ability to breastfeed.[1]"

As you know, on March 28, 2016, as well as on April 15 and 19, I have written to the EPA urging the expedited release of the new health advisory standard for PFOA chemicals, as well as requesting detailed information as to when the new standard will be released. While my letters have been acknowledged, I have not yet received a substantive response to any of the questions presented. It is imperative that local officials and residents have the most accurate information to ensure the safety of water resources.

I reiterate my request for the expedited release of the long-term exposure health advisory standard for PFOA so that residents know whether their water is safe, local officials are able to respond to concerned residents, and water treatment professionals working to design treatment systems have a clearly defined objective.

[1] https://news.brown.edu/articles/2016/05/pfoa

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Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter, I look forward to a prompt response.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Ayotte

Kelly A. Ayotte
U.S. Senator