



## TESTING *for* PEASE

January 9, 2017

Office of Governor Christopher Sununu  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Congratulations and Introduction from Testing for Pease

Dear Governor Sununu,

Testing for Pease would like to congratulate you on your successful campaign to be the next Governor for the State of New Hampshire. You are a respected public figure, dedicated to serving the community and we are pleased to know that we hold a common purpose: to help and benefit the people of New Hampshire.

Testing for Pease is a community action group, whose mission is to be a reliable resource for education and communication while advocating for a long-term health plan on behalf of those impacted by the PFC water contamination at the former Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, NH. The members of Testing for Pease and our families have been all personally impacted by the PFC contamination and have been working together for quite some time before we officially formed the Testing for Pease group in early 2016.

It was discovered in 2014 that the wells on the Pease International Tradeport were contaminated with PFCs from the use of AFFF (aqueous film forming foam). AFFF was used heavily by the Air Force from 1970-1991 when Pease was an Air Force base, because it was most effective in extinguishing petroleum based fires. AFFF is still used today, however, in a more contained manner for training purposes. Since the contamination on Pease was discovered in 2014 many other communities in New Hampshire and around the globe have been contaminated with PFCs.

PFCs have been deemed by the EPA as a contaminant of emerging concern because of their potential health effects. The EPA has also deemed a certain PFC, PFOA, as a likely human carcinogen. In May of 2016 the EPA revised the PHA (provisional health advisory) levels for certain PFCs (PFOA and PFOS) to a lifetime health advisory of 70 ppt. Prior to this revision, the PHAs were set at 400 ppt for PFOA and 200 ppt for PFOS. While lowering the levels is a step in right direction, we feel strongly that no level is safe.

Toxicology studies have proven that PFCs are harmful to animals in many ways. Although epidemiological research seems limited, the C8 health study of over 69,000 people determined a probable link to cancers and several serious health conditions, with exposure to *only PFOA for as little as*

*one year and at concentrations as low as only 50 ppt.* All three wells at Pease tested positive for PFCs but the Haven well tested extremely high: 2500 ppt for PFOS, 350 ppt for PFOA, well above the 50 ppt noted in the C8 health study. The contamination levels at Pease were off the charts and there is no data as of yet to indicate how far back the contamination went.

Further, in the contamination discovery process the results for the Haven well showed a similar PFC with extremely high concentrations: PFHxS at 830 ppt. The EPA has yet to establish a PHA for PFHxS. This chemical remains a wild card. It is not clear to us how the EPA can deem PFOA as a likely human carcinogen, yet not implement a PHA for a like-minded PFC. Because of this and the many uncertainties surrounding PFCs, as a community group we would like New Hampshire to be more proactive in their response and approach to PFC contamination in our communities. We cannot continue to give the chemical the benefit of the doubt. We need to put the people of New Hampshire first and foremost.

We have worked with officials on the local, state and federal levels to push for more research surrounding PFCs and their health effects, lower PHA levels, physician education, and blood testing programs--to name a few. In August 2016, Testing for Pease and Portsmouth City Councilor Nancy Pearson met with representatives from NH DHHS to improve the communication and collaboration with the state health department and community. We have several action items we are working on with NH DHHS and hope to see the completion of some of those items in early 2017. The impacted community is a stake holder in this process and it is critical we stay actively involved in next steps with the multiple state agencies involved in the PFC contamination impacting our state.

We feel strongly that it is imperative that we work together to be a voice for the community as we face the short and long term implications with being exposed to these harmful chemicals. We strive to inform, educate and consistently keep our community involved with making an impact in pushing these stable, persistent emerging contaminants to be regulated. Since the PFC contamination was discovered on the Pease International Tradeport in April 2014, several other communities in New Hampshire and around the world have discovered contamination and we are sure there are more to come. PFC contamination is a large issue in New Hampshire that warrants your attention. We have made progress but there is more to be done. As you take office and settle in, we look forward to forming a productive relationship with you, as we did with the prior Governor, Maggie Hassan.

Congratulations again.

Best Regards,

Testing for Pease  
Andrea Amico, Founder  
Alayna Davis, Founder  
Michelle Dalton, Founder