

7/22/2020



Joint Committee on Administrative Rules  
Boji Tower - 3rd floor  
124 West Allegan St.  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Honorable members of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules,

The Huron River Watershed Council encourages you all to support the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for seven PFAS chemicals proposed by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). HRWC believes these proposed PFAS MCLs are a critical and necessary first step to protect Michigan residents.

EGLE has been diligent in their assessment of the risks posed by PFAS to public health, the environment, and Michigan's economy. We believe they are feasible thresholds that municipalities treating public water supplies can reach, and we believe users of PFAS chemicals have a responsibility to meet these thresholds as responsible businesses. The threshold levels are based on legally defensible scientific research, and EGLE's process for collecting perspectives from affected communities and stakeholders regarding the thresholds has been robust.

We have been involved in efforts to address PFAS contamination in the Huron River watershed since the summer of 2018. During that time, researchers, state agencies, and HRWC have learned much about how persistent these chemicals are as pollutants in the environment. We have learned more about their wide-ranging, harmful effects, and we have learned there are few applications where the use of PFAS chemicals are even necessary. What has been made painfully obvious in the Huron River watershed and in communities across Michigan is that PFAS are extremely difficult to remove from the environment and drinking water once released. The best approach for protecting Michigan waters is to avoid their use and discharge to begin with. We believe these limits will encourage a reduction in PFAS pollution.

Bipartisan support is strong for PFAS drinking water standards throughout the diverse communities and demographics within our watershed. Clean, safe, water is an issue that brings Michiganders together. We hope you'll act on their behalf and support the proposed PFAS MCLs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Esselman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Esselman, Executive Director  
Huron River Watershed Council

CC: Sen. P. Lucido, Sen. E. McBroom, Sen. L. Theis, Sen. A. Hollier, Sen. J. Irwin  
Rep. M. Maddock, Rep. D. Wozniak, Rep. S. Johnson, Rep. K. Bolden, Rep. L. Garrett