



# **PFAS Advocacy and Policy in the Great Lakes Region**

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**What actions are Great Lakes states taking to address PFAS?**

**What is currently happening to address PFAS federally?**

**What does PFAS advocacy look like in the Great lakes region?**

**What can members of Congress do?**



"My community has been drinking poisoned water and it's caused serious health threats for me and my neighbors. **This PFAS contamination has caused illnesses — it has taken lives.** It's time to hold corporate polluters accountable and put a stop to this once and for all."

- **Sandy Wynn-Stelt**, Belmont, MI resident, member of Wolverine Community Advisory Group, and co-chair of Great Lakes PFAS Action Network

# State Actions in the Great Lakes Region

*States are leading the way addressing PFAS, building momentum for federal action. And federal action is needed to move states.*

## **Regulating PFAS in Food Packaging**

Minnesota, New York

## **Regulating PFAS in Drinking Water**

Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, New York

## **Expanding PFAS Monitoring in Water**

Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania,  
New York

## **Regulating AFFF Firefighting Foam**

Illinois, New York, Michigan

## **Procurement Policies**

Michigan



# State Actions in the Great Lakes Region

*In some states, departmental agencies are complimenting legislative action, in other states where legislatures are slow to take action departmental agencies are stepping up in their absence.*

## **Action Plans/Blueprints**

Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

## **Executive Directives**

Michigan, Wisconsin

## **PFAS Response Agencies**

Michigan, Wisconsin

## **Litigation**

Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio



*Michigan's Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

*Photo Credit: UpNorthLive.com*

# Current Federal Actions and Needed Actions

*States alone cannot address the PFAS problem; they need the federal government to hold agencies accountable, provide large-scale funding, and pass comprehensive legislation.*

**Congress** - 25 bills introduced addressing PFAS – many still in committee.

- The bi-partisan PFAS Action Act passed the House in July.
  - Designates PFAS as a hazardous substance
  - Sets national drinking water regulations for PFOA and PFOS



*Michigan Rep. Debbie Dingell*

Photo Credit: Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

**Agencies** – DoD, EPA, FDA and DoT all have important roles to play

- These agencies are addressing PFAS, but much more needs to be done.
  - DoD is the largest PFAS polluter in the country.
  - EPA created the Council on PFAS
  - FDA does not regulate PFAS in food packaging enough
  - DoT operates the Federal Aviation Administration which regulates firefighting foam used on aircraft fires.

# Department of Defense

## History of PFAS

The DoD has required Aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF) since 1967 . Since the 1970s they have known that PFAS in AFFF are toxic to human health.

## The Problem

The DoD is the largest PFAS polluter in the country, with nearly 700 military installations known or suspected releases of PFAS. Meanwhile, communities across the United States are being exposed to PFAS in their drinking water, surface water and wildlife.

## What needs to happen

The DoD must better address their PFAS contamination. A few priorities are: changing the military specifications so that firefighting foam does NOT require PFAS; meeting state MCLs for drinking water and clean-up standards, and faster PFAS remediation and cleanup at contaminated military sites.



*Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy & Environment Resilience*

Office of Assistant Secretary  
of Department of Defense for  
Sustainment

# EPA Roadmap

The Roadmap accelerates long overdue efforts.

However, the Roadmap fails on some fronts:

- The Roadmap fails to hold the DoD accountable, while the White House issued a misleading statement praising the DoD for taking swift action.
- Must move swiftly to address other PFAS.
- Do more to address the disposal of PFAS wastes.
- Ban the incineration of PFAS wastes.

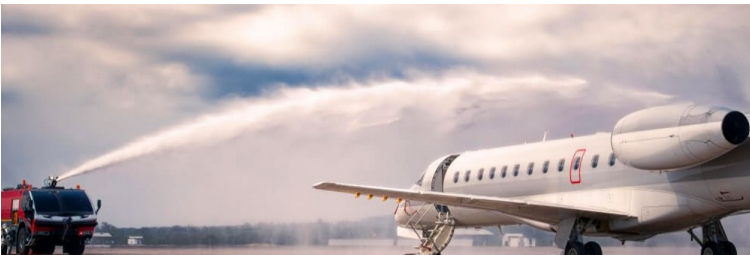


*EPA Administrator Michael Regan*  
AP Photo/Evan Vucci

# Dept. of Transportation – FAA

**Firefighting Foam at Civilian Airports** - As of October, 2021 the FAA was directed not to require civilian airports to use firefighting foam containing PFAS.

- However, the FAA did not meet this deadline:
  - Did not authorize the use of alternative PFAS-free foams
  - Did not guide airports on how to apply performance requirements to PFAS-free foams
  - Did not update current military specification performance standards.
- Rep. Kildee and Sen. Gellibrand are urging the FAA to take action to enable airports to use PFAS-free foam.



Natnan Srisuwan / Shutterstock



*FAA Administrator, Steve Dickson*  
FAA.gov

# Cleaning Up PFAS is Costing Taxpayer money

**2021 Infrastructure Package - \$10 billion** to clean up PFAS

**FY22 House version of NDAA - \$549 million** in dedicated funding for the cleanup at DoD installations

**Department of Defense** - current estimates of future cleanup costs are **\$2 billion**, which will likely increase.

**Budget Reconciliation Bill - \$80 million** to help firefighters purchase PFAS-free gear

**Michigan costs** – at least **\$140 million** to date



PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE CARMODY, MICHIGAN RADIO

“Our community has been devastated by PFAS contamination. Our economy, our tourism, our beautiful natural resources, and most of all our health have been impacted. The only response from the Air Force is we are investigating. Years and years, and they are still investigating,”

- **Cathy Wusterbarth**, Oscoda, MI resident, member of Need Our Water, (NOW) and Great Lakes PFAS Action Network

# Advocacy Efforts in Great Lakes states

## Coalitions

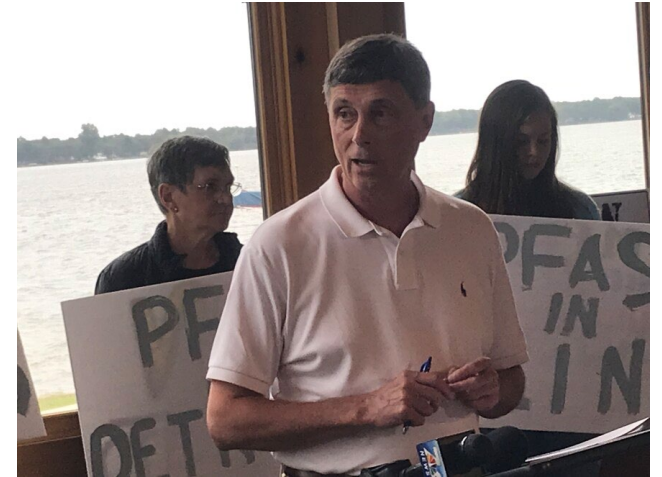
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network  
#PFAS Free WI

## Community groups

MI: Need Our Water (NOW)  
WI: Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger  
PA: Buxmont Coalition for Safe Water  
NY: Newburgh Clean Water Project

## Citizen Advisory Groups

Wolverine Community Advisory Group  
MI PFAS Action Response Team – Citizen's Advisory Workgroup  
DoD's Restoration Advisory Board

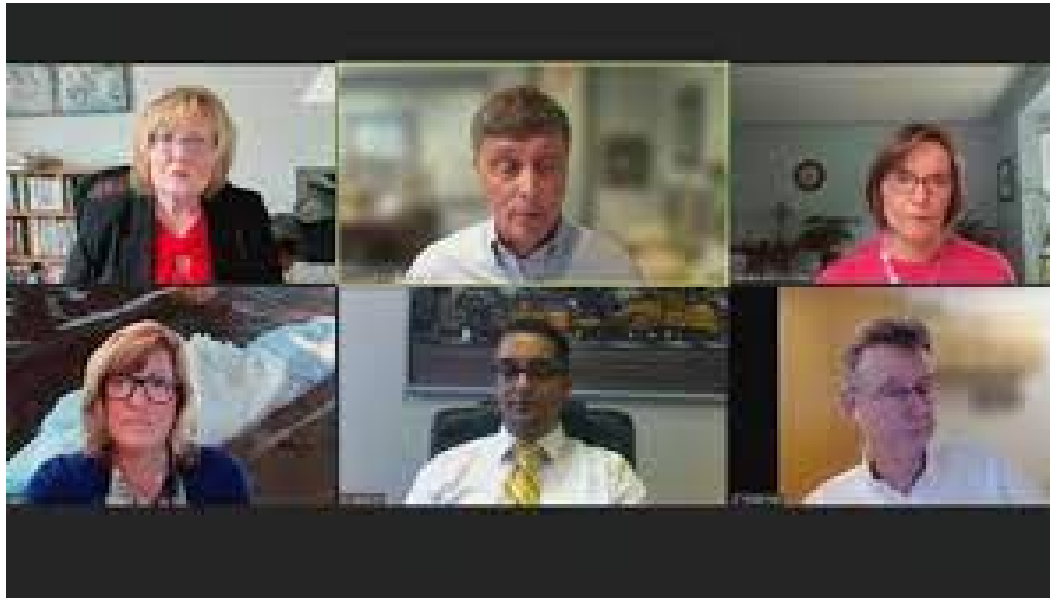


*Tony Spaniola, Community Activist,  
NOW Press Conference*

# Great Lakes PFAS Action Network

[www.glpn.org](http://www.glpn.org)

Led by PFAS-Impacted Community Leaders



# Advocacy Priorities

Protect & support PFAS-impacted communities

Prevent future PFAS contamination

Test & monitor more to understand full exposure

Hold corporate and government PFAS polluters accountable

Find innovative solutions to cleaning up existing PFAS



Over the past decade, it has become increasingly clear that toxic PFAS chemicals — which are used in everything from furniture, carpeting, clothing and cosmetics to food packaging, child car seats, and fire-fighting foam — are responsible for serious health impacts to people, fish and other wildlife. Across the Great Lakes region, PFAS have been found at alarming concentrations in drinking water, ground water, surface water, rain water, bioaccumulation in wildlife.

The Great Lakes PFAS Action Network (GLPAN) is a coalition of impacted communities, joined together with environmental and community organizations to create a united voice for strong policies that protect communities, people, fish and other wildlife from toxic contamination.

It will take bold action by all levels of government — local, state and federal — to truly mitigate the presence of PFAS in our environment, but it can be done with a deep commitment by elected officials, businesses, and the public.

The following are a collection of impactful policy solutions that must be pursued to protect Michigan and the entire Great Lakes region's environment and our public health. They are broken down by both legislative and administrative actions, and we have noted any states that have enacted such policies.

# Advocacy Efforts Nationally

## Coalitions

National PFAS Contamination Coalition

## National Organizations

Safer States

Environmental Working Group

Safer Chemicals Healthy Families



# What Congress Should Do

- Pass comprehensive legislation to address PFAS
- Appropriate funds to federal agencies to clean up PFAS
- Hold federal agencies accountable to timelines and implementation
- Listen and respond to constituents and PFAS impacted communities



Congressman Kildee with action group,  
Need Our Water, Oscoda

# Thank You



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