

**TODD STEPHENS, MEMBER
151ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

PO BOX 202151
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2151
PHONE: (717) 260-6163
FAX: (717) 782-2898

515 STUMP ROAD
NORTH WALES, PA 19454
PHONE: (215) 368-5165
FAX: (215) 368-5169



House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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E-mail: tstephen@pahousegop.com
www.RepToddStephens.com

The Honorable Robert Casey
United States Senator
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
United States Senator
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Horsham Township Water

Dear Senators Casey and Toomey:

As you know, since 2014, the residents of Horsham Township have been dealing with water contamination issues stemming from the Navy's firefighting training activities at the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station. The federal government must do more to protect the health of the residents in Horsham Township.

In 2014, the federal government informed Horsham residents our public water had been compromised with levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) above those established By the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be safe for "short-term exposure". The Horsham Water and Sewer Authority took two wells offline to comply with the EPA levels. **While our water complied with the established provisional health advisory level, since October 2015, the EPA permitted water they deemed unfit for small children to flow from faucets served by the public water system.** Then, on May 19, 2016, the EPA finally released a lifetime health advisory level which was dramatically lower than the provisional health advisory, once again rendering Horsham's public water supply out of compliance until the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority took three additional wells offline. In sum, as a result of the federal government's actions at the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station, the residents of Horsham have twice in two years been informed the public water they had been consuming exceeded levels the EPA deems safe for consumption.

Today, while the public water is compliant with EPA standards, there are still low levels of these chemicals in the water. Nine wells remain online in Horsham Township but, with the exception of monitoring, nothing is in place to ensure they are not compromised by these chemicals in the future. Additionally, despite my repeated calls for blood tests to help residents

understand the nature and extent of their exposure and a health study to help us understand what, if any, health risks we face as a result, no such testing or study is in place or planned.

Conversely, in Hoosick Falls, NY, an industrial polluter accepted responsibility in fall 2015 for PFOA in the public water system. The polluter, Saint Gobain, immediately began providing bottled water for residents. Just six months later, the residents of Hoosick Falls are drinking public water with no detectable levels of the contaminants and they've already had blood tests and are awaiting the results so they could understand their exposure and any potential health risks stemming from that exposure.

Our shared constituents in Horsham Township deserve the same remediation and health protection as has been provided to residents in Hoosick, NY. Accordingly, I believe the federal government must fund:

- carbon filters for all our public wells
- blood testing for our families and
- a health risk assessment to help us understand any health risks associated with the levels in our bodies

The community doesn't want to hear about "acceptable limits" or that our water is "now in compliance". We want to hear that, just as in Hoosick, actions have been taken to eliminate the contaminants from our public water system to the greatest extent possible, that we'll be provided with blood tests and health risk information so we can inform our healthcare providers and that precautions have been put in place to ensure this situation isn't repeated.

On behalf of Horsham's residents, I appreciate your efforts thus far and hope you will join me in insisting upon these measures to ensure our safety and peace of mind in Horsham Township.

Very Truly Yours,



Todd Stephens, Member
Pennsylvania House of Representatives