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Congressman Lee M. Zeldin
First Congressional District of New York

September 13, 2016

The Honorable Ash Carter
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Lieutenant General Stanley E. Clarke III
Director, Air National Guard
1000 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1000

Dear Secretary Carter and Lieutenant General Clarke,

As the Representative of affected communities adjacent to the Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, I am requesting that the Department of Defense and Air National Guard fully assume the costs associated with connecting all homes affected by perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) contamination to the municipal water supply.

Recently, at least seven private wells adjacent to Gabreski tested positive for PFOS exposure and at least four were over the 0.07 ppb lifetime limit established by the EPA. Since it is clear that these chemicals were introduced into the groundwater supply through the use of industrial strength firefighting foam during past training exercises at Gabreski Air National Guard Base, it is imperative that the Department of Defense and Air National Guard continue to work alongside state and local government to ensure that all impacted residents have access to safe and clean drinking water.

Gabreski has been declared a Class 2 New York State Superfund site by the State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Department of Defense has been identified as potentially the responsible party. Steps are currently being taken at the local level to ensure access to safe and clean drinking water for homes that previously relied on contaminated or at risk private wells, and I ask you to continue working in concert with state and local authorities to resolve this issue.

I thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. Should you require any further information, please contact Kevin Dowling in my Washington office at [202-225-3826](tel:202-225-3826) or kevin.dowling@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lee Zeldin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress, First Congressional District of New York