

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2023

The Honorable Jon Tester
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Tester and Ranking Member Collins:

As you begin the process of developing the fiscal year (FY) 2024 defense appropriations bill, we encourage you to provide increased funding for activities to address contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Specifically, we support at least \$517 million, consistent with the amount previously authorized in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), for the Department of Defense (DOD) to expand and accelerate testing and remediation of PFAS contaminated military installations nationwide.

PFAS chemicals have emerged as widespread contaminants to the drinking water sources of military bases across the country due to their use in aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF) used by the military. These chemicals are not only found in firefighting foam, but also in the personal protective equipment firefighters wear on the job and in a variety of consumer products, presenting numerous pathways of exposure. The number of military installations with known or suspected contamination from PFAS continues to rise, reaching more than 700 installations nationwide.¹ Although long-term cumulative effects on human health are not yet fully known, analyses have linked PFAS materials with birth defects, various forms of cancer and immune system dysfunction. The uncertainty associated with the health impacts of these materials has caused great concern for members of the military and veterans who have served at the hundreds of bases found to be contaminated with these materials and for the surrounding communities.

The FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act included important provisions and funding to address PFAS investigation, testing, remediation and disposal issues at DOD. In addition, the FY 2022 NDAA required DOD to report on the PFAS testing and remediation schedule for contaminated installations and provide updates on cleanup status and funding requirements. According to that report, completed in July 2022, DOD has obligated nearly \$1.5 billion in funding for PFAS testing and remediation efforts through FY 2021, and the Department anticipates needing over \$2 billion more based on the contamination known at that time.² Given the insidious nature of PFAS contamination, we anticipate those funding requirements to continue to grow as the Department continues to test for contamination and take the appropriate actions needed to clean up polluted sites.

¹Department of Defense. *PFAS Data: Cleanup of PFAS*. ASD(EI&E) - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Retrieved from <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/data/cleanup-pfas.html>

²Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. Department of Defense. (2022). *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Cleanup: Schedule, Status, and Cost Estimates*. C-6664A70.

Therefore, sustained high levels of funding are needed to appropriately address the significant scope and severity of PFAS contamination for those on or near military bases with exposure. Service members, their families, veterans and communities surrounding these installations deserve greater certainty about how and when the DOD will remediate contamination. DOD has yet to complete testing for PFAS in the groundwater or surface water at over 300 active or closed military installations that it lists as suspected of having PFAS contamination. Accordingly, we request that you provide at least \$517 million in the FY 2024 defense appropriations bill to address known or suspected PFAS contamination and facilitate development and deployment of technologies that can meet the most stringent relevant state or federal standard and destroy PFAS and without releasing hazardous or perfluoroalkyl substance byproducts to the environment.

We appreciate your attention to these issues and look forward to working with you to address PFAS in the FY 2024 defense appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



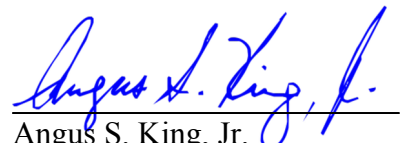
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



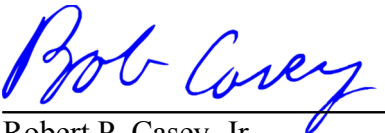
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



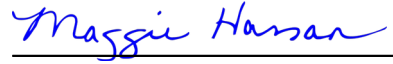
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



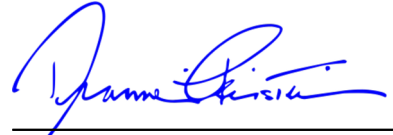
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



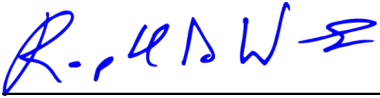
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



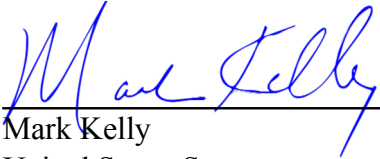
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator




Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



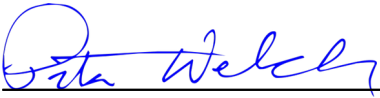
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Defense Group Letter Table
DEF_Shaheen_Group_230411-060225[LetterID 14995]

ID	Sub	Request Agency or Account	Request Project Name	Request (\$000)
102398	DEF Group	[Title II]/[DEFW]/[Environmental Restoration, Defense]/[Environmental Restoration, Defense]/[---]/[---]/[ERDW]/[080]/[045G] [Member Staff] - Sophia Hays Sophia_Hays@shaheen.senate.gov 202-224-0649	PFAS Testing and Remediation [Member's Request (text)] - Support at least \$517 million in funding	\$517,000

Request ID: 102398

Agency or Account:	[Title II]/[DEFW]/[Environmental Restoration, Defense]/[Environmental Restoration, Defense]/[---]/[---]/[ERDW]/[080]/[045G]	Project Name:	PFAS Testing and Remediation
Member/s:	Shaheen, Jeanne(D-NH); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Bennet, Michael(D-CO); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Booker, Cory(D-NJ); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Cantwell, Maria(D-WA); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Casey, Robert(D-PA); Durbin, Richard(D-IL); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Gillibrand, Kirsten(D-NY); Hassan, Margaret Wood(D-NH); Heinrich, Martin(D-NM); Hickenlooper, John(D-CO); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Kelly, Mark(D-AZ); King, Angus(I-ME); Ossoff, Jon(D-GA); Padilla, Alex(D-CA); Peters, Gary(D-MI); Rosen, Jacky(D-NV); Sanders, Bernard(I-VT); Sinema, Kyrsten(D-AZ); Stabenow, Debbie(D-MI); Van Hollen, Chris(D-MD); Warner, Mark(D-VA); Warnock, Raphael(D-GA); Warren, Elizabeth(D-MA); Welch, Peter(D-VT)	Subcommittee:	DEF
Request Type:	Group	Staff Contact:	Sophia Hays Sophia_Hays@shaheen.senate.gov 202-224-0649
Justification:	<p>PFAS chemicals have emerged as widespread contaminants to the drinking water sources of military bases across the country due to their use in aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF) used by the military. These chemicals are not only found in firefighting foam, but also in the personal protective equipment firefighters wear on the job and in a variety of consumer products, presenting numerous pathways of exposure. The number of military installations with known or suspected contamination from PFAS continues to rise, reaching nearly 700 installations nationwide. Although long-term cumulative effects on human health are not yet fully known, analyses have linked PFAS materials with birth defects, various forms of cancer and immune system dysfunction. The uncertainty associated with the health impacts of these materials has caused great concern for members of the military and veterans who have served at the hundreds of bases found to be contaminated with these materials and for the surrounding communities.</p> <p>The FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act included historic funding to address PFAS-related issues at DOD and the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required schedules for testing and remediation. Sustained high levels of funding are needed to appropriately address the significant scope and severity of this issue for those on or near military bases with exposure. Service members, their families, veterans and communities surrounding these installations deserve greater certainty about how and when the DOD will remediate contamination. Accordingly, we request that you provide at least \$517 million in the FY2024 defense appropriations bill to address PFAS and facilitate deployment of technologies that can meet the most stringent relevant state or federal standard and destroy PFAS and without releasing hazardous or perfluoroalkyl substance byproducts to the environment.</p>		
Proposed Bill Language:		Proposed Report Language:	
Member's Request:	\$517,000	Member's Request (text):	Support at least \$517 million in funding
Enacted Level:	\$0	President's Request:	\$0
CBBJ Line No:	080	CBBJ Program Element:	045G
CDS Request:	No	Performing Location:	