

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Brenda Mallory
Chair
Council on Environmental Quality
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Chair Mallory:

As you know, President Biden's plan to secure environmental justice specifically called for "prioritizing substitutes through procurement" to address forever chemicals, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). As the administration moves to improve the government procurement process, we strongly support and urge the Council on Environmental Quality to take actions to end unnecessary exposures to these toxic forever chemicals.

Our understanding is that the Council on Environmental Quality is finalizing an Executive Order (EO) to guide sustainable procurement by the federal government. It is important to human health and the environment that any final EO includes a requirement directing federal agencies to look for items that do not include PFAS chemicals as an intentionally-added ingredient when making purchases during the government procurement process.

As you finalize the order, we urge you to ensure this order includes a specific purchasing directive to avoid products made with harmful PFAS chemicals. We also urge CEQ to ensure that the order includes a requirement that other agencies follow the EPA's guidelines when making purchases, as well as a requirement to report back to the White House on these efforts. As Members of Congress focused on efforts to reduce needless exposures to PFAS, we applaud the President for his commitment to prioritizing products that have not been made with PFAS as an ingredient.

We are grateful for the President's efforts to address PFAS so far with the release of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's release of the PFAS Strategic Roadmap. During his campaign, President Biden pledged to address PFAS in three ways: by setting a PFAS drinking water standard, by designating PFAS as hazardous substances, and by prioritizing alternatives to PFAS during procurement. The Biden-Harris Administration has made important progress on the two of these commitments.

We urge you to fulfill the President's commitment on the third by adding PFAS to the final sustainable procurement Executive Order. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Marie Newman
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress