

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chair
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Rogers, Ranking Member Smith, Chair Reed, and Ranking Member Wicker

As you undertake the important task of drafting the final National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25 NDAA), we write today to urge the inclusion of Sec. 319 of the House bill in any final NDAA. This language, derived from the commonsense DOD PFAS Discharge Prevention Act, would ensure that toxic “forever chemicals” at DoD installations are cost-effectively managed to protect service members, firefighters, and nearby communities from toxic exposure.

The use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam at DoD facilities and subsequent runoff is a significant source of drinking water pollution, and as of 2021, DoD has identified [700 installations across the nation](#) that are likely contaminated with PFAS chemicals. Research has consistently linked PFAS exposure to various cancers, reduced immune function, reproductive challenges, birth defects, and other human health impacts that pose an increasing threat to our servicemembers, military families, and the communities they serve in.

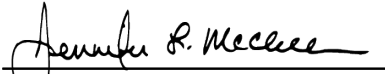
Sec. 319 would help reduce toxic exposure in the near-term by better managing PFAS contamination at DoD installations. Specifically, Sec. 319 would:


- Require DoD to regularly monitor for PFAS at DoD installations; and
- Facilitate the implementation of base-specific best management practices (BMPs) to limit PFAS-laden stormwater runoff at DoD facilities so that it does not contaminate surrounding drinking water or require cleanup


By allowing for base-specific analysis, this bill provides flexibility for each DoD facility to implement the most effective measures for reducing PFAS. Preventing PFAS contamination from leaving DoD facilities in the first place would go a long way towards protecting firefighters, service members, and the drinking water sources for families. Importantly, Sec. 319 would also significantly improve the cost-efficiency of PFAS remediation funding already authorized for DoD by reducing how much PFAS needs to be cleaned up in the future.


Congress has worked in a bipartisan fashion to provide significant investments in the cleanup of PFAS chemicals at DoD facilities and nearby defense communities. Similarly, the DOD PFAS Discharge Prevention Act, from which Sec. 309 is derived, has broad bipartisan support in the House. As the conferees come together to resolve differences in the FY25 NDAA, we hope you will again act in a bipartisan manner and include the language from Sec. 319 of the House bill in the final NDAA.


Sincerely,



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress

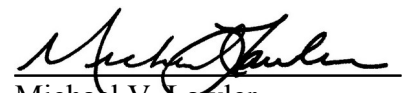

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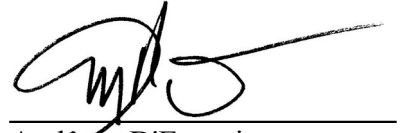

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