

Date: _____

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Honorable Phil Murphy,
Governor of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Senator Troy Singleton
400 North Church Street
Suite 260
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Assemblyman Herb Conaway, Jr.
Delran Professional Center
8008 Rt. 130 North
Bldg. C.
Suite 450
Delran, NJ 08075

Assemblywoman Carol A. Murphy
504 Route 130 North
Suite 100
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Burlington County Commissioners
49 Rancocas Road
Room 123
P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Re: Willingboro Municipal Utilities Authority – Funding for Treatment of Drinking Water Contamination

Dear Governor, Legislators and Commissioners:

You may be aware of recent articles and news reports concerning an announcement by the Willingboro Municipal Utilities Authority (“WMUA”) that one of its six water supply wells is exhibiting a specific fluorinated organic chemical contaminant known as PFOS in amounts in excess of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s (“NJDEP”) Maximum Contaminant Level (“MCL”) for drinking water.

The WMUA acted swiftly to shut down the affected well and is currently supply its customers, which include the residents and businesses of Willingboro Township, a portion of Westampton and, though bulk water supply, Mount Laurel Township and Evesham Township, with potable water that is safe to consume. In addition, the WMUA will soon be financing and installing a treatment system that is designed specifically to address the PFOS contamination in the affected well. This project is anticipated to cost 5 Million and will take approximately 17 months to construct.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the WMUA and its customers need immediate support and assistance from our legislative leaders. While the WMUA is prepared to deal with the contamination impacting one of its wells, the costs associated with this effort will impact rate payers. The WMUA is also closely monitoring its other five wells. Should one or more of the WMUA’s remaining wells become impacted by PFOS, the WMUA’s ability to provide adequate high-quality potable water to its customers could be compromised.

We are aware that the federal government, through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will be providing New Jersey with \$168,949,000.00 with a portion of that being dedicated to addressing forever chemicals such as PFOS. The WMUA needs to receive a fair and appropriate portion of this funding so that it may swiftly and effectively address the PFOS contamination threatening its potable water supply system.

We also ask that the NJDEP be tasked with immediately assisting WMUA, and other affected communities State-wide, by utilizing its vast database of contaminated site information to identify potential likely sources of PFOS affecting potable water supply wells, and, if necessary, directing potential responsible parties to initiate immediate PFOS testing programs to definitively determine (1) if PFOS contamination exists at their respective sites, and (2) if such contamination is, or has a potential to, impact a potable water supply well. By locating potentially responsible parties, the State can leverage fines and penalties from said parties to extend and supplement monies provided by the federal government.

The WMUA is not waiting, it is moving forward on a multi-track approach that involves (1) treating its affected well, (2) closely monitoring its remaining 5 wells, and (3) collaborating with the NJDEP and retained professionals in an attempt to identify the potentially responsible parties that may have generated the PFOS contamination. These efforts will impact WMUA customer rates. We ask that you provide immediate funding to the WMUA to assist it in its efforts to address this emerging concern and ensure that rate payers will not be further impacted.