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Livingston County Board of Commissioners  
304 East Grand River Avenue  
Howell, Michigan 48855

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Commissioners:

A recent report by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has reported that more than 11,300 sites could be contaminated statewide with PFAS (PER- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). I strongly urge you to immediately begin an investigation into the extent of PFAS contamination in Livingston County and to move swiftly to get on top of the PFAS contamination crisis.

On Sunday, a state of emergency was declared for Parchment due to the discovery of high levels of PFAS in the water system serving the community. This state of emergency made the issue personal for me, because my parents, sister, and many of my friends live in the area. I am all the more concerned about the residents of Livingston County as the list of potentially contaminated sites exploded with the latest information released from the MEDQ. The Michigan DEQ has begun testing all public water supplies and public school water systems for contamination by PFAS, a task expected to be finished by the end of the year. But private wells could be affected, too, so homeowners need to know if their area is at risk.

Early reports about PFAS contamination had focused on areas around military bases in Michigan, but last month, the DEQ made a presentation in Lansing that included maps with more than 11,300 potentially contaminated sites including fire stations, municipal airports, wastewater treatment plants, and industrial sites. The maps show many potential sites in Livingston County. Fire-fighting foam, non-stick surfaces, and stain guards are among

the possible sources of PFAS contamination, but other commercial and industrial uses are also possible sources.

The chemical compounds known as PFAS can damage liver, thyroid, and pancreatic function; affect the growth and learning of infants and children; make it harder for a woman to conceive; raise cholesterol levels; increase cancer risks, and affect the immune system. The chemical compounds can last for many years in the environment, so it is possible that abandoned industrial sites are still sources of contamination.

I call on the board to require the Livingston County Public Health Department to survey existing businesses, fire departments, and airports to determine which entities have used PFAS-containing chemicals and to examine the MDEQ data to find sites of possible contamination in the county.

Additionally, the board should urge the county's lawmakers to support an investigation into why MDEQ did not release a report about PFAS contamination in Michigan and instead sat on the report for six years preventing communities from taking steps to protect themselves. The County should survey fire departments, industries, waste-water treatment plants, and airports in the county to determine how much PFAS-containing material they have in their possession and what their protocols are for using it, given the knowledge of the harmful health effects of the chemical.

The County Board of Commissioners should immediately obtain a list from the MDEQ of potentially contaminated sites in Livingston County and press the state to prioritize testing those sites based on the likelihood for contamination and the extent of contamination. As a county, we must press the MDEQ to release testing data on the sites they have tested so far as well as demanding a schedule for when the remaining sites will be tested.

Furthermore, we need to demand local water supplies to test for PFAS to let the public know what risks may be present, so they can take appropriate action.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



Alex Hansen

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