



LINDA BAUER DARR
PRESIDENT & CEO

January 9, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – we wish to express our concerns over H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act. While we agree that aggressive steps are needed to protect water resources from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination, we believe that ongoing efforts at the federal level to develop risk-based regulations offer a more effective approach to address this problem.

ACEC represents over 5,500 engineering companies and thousands of engineering professionals who work on a daily basis to improve the nation’s water infrastructure and protect human health and the environment. While PFAS chemicals have been in wide use for many decades, concerns have emerged in recent years regarding the health effects of certain types of PFAS. In response to this, federal and state regulators, as well as water supply, wastewater and other stakeholders are working together to define the public health risks of the PFAS chemicals as well as consideration of technologies to cost-effectively mitigate those risks.

The Council supports this deliberative, consistent and data-driven approach to developing risk-based PFAS standards. By designating certain PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances under CERCLA (Superfund), as called for in H.R. 535, we are concerned that such action could upset the progress already made to address this challenge, divert resources away from more pressing threats to water quality, and impose significant costs and liability on our water utility clients and the ratepayers they serve.

We would respectfully urge the House to reconsider this approach, and instead work to support and where necessary enhance the existing regulatory framework and action plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Bauer Darr", is written over a light grey circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Linda Bauer Darr