

Good morning and Thank You for allowing me speak today.

My name is Lee Donahue and I represent the 4,319 residents of the Town of Campbell as Supervisor 2 for Health Education and Welfare. Our town water has been contaminated by PFAS for years. It was first discovered 8 years ago. Yet no one told us. There was no state enforced regulatory standard for PFAS, so we drank that toxic water **unknowingly** for another 6 long years.

Couples experiencing infertility, planned to start families, They tested their private wells (ground water) for safety before conceiving. They took every precaution they thought possible, to insure the health and safety of their family. No one told them to test for PFAS. There are no regulatory standards for ground, municipal or surface water. That is why I am here today.

PFAS accumulates in blood, tissue and organs. Every child born in those 6 years (and perhaps decades before then) was pre-poisoned by their mother because there was no enforceable standard for groundwater. Those babies were poisoned in their mothers' wombs, which should be the safest place for an unborn child. Those children continued to be poisoned because we know that PFAS concentrates in breastmilk. A baby's diet in their first year is primarily water based, either breast milk or formula.

Young men in their twenties should not bear the battle against testicular cancer, as they have done here. Women in their 30's and 40's should not be fighting rare forms of endometrial, breast or thyroid cancer and rare autoimmune diseases because their bodies have accumulated toxic PFAS. Science shows that PFAS has been detected in human tissue and organs **decades** after exposure. It's like a ticking time bomb, you know it's in you and you can't get it out. You search for an alternate safe drinking water source and pray for enforceable water standards.

Wisconsinites deserve confidence in the products we drink; from our tap, to the water-based products we produce. It is important to note the City of Wausau recommends that manufacturers who use City water **there** should use an alternate source of water in the production of consumer beverages. [See Wausau Water Works, Business PFAS Frequently Asked Questions, Q3.](#)

We know that PFAS poisoning is caused by ingestion. PFAS contaminated water, not only poisons humans, it poisons the fish & wildlife we hunt and eat.

Continual exposure to PFAS toxins fails to reduce human risk - while favoring short-term industry profits over long-term public health and the environment.

The costs of drinking water treatment and PFAS remediation are an investment. This investment outweighs the potential health-related costs of continued exposure to PFAS, especially for vulnerable communities of children. Without action, exponentially higher human health costs will be borne by poisoned populations for generations to come. We need a strengthened regulatory system to adequately protect public health and the environment. The public and future generations should not have to bear the financial health burdens of industry.

Setting standards for water in all of its forms, protects human life and establishes consumer confidence in the products we buy and consume.

The State of Wisconsin has standards for the maximum contaminate level (MCL) of arsenic, uranium and other harmful substances in our water. It's time to add PFAS to that list. PFOS and PFOA have poisoned water sources in Campbell, Eau Claire, Peshtigo, Wausau, Madison, Rib Mountain and Rhinelander.

The cost to set safe water standards and invest in safe drinking water sources will continue to escalate in the coming years. We can't afford to delay that investment.

5 million residents are relying on you to make that decision. 5 million residents deserve safe water to consume at home and in their beverage of their choice.

The cost of doing nothing is a verdict no family should have to face. It tells residents and consumers our health and safety don't matter. It tells us regardless of the cost to our personal health, our family, and the cost to healthcare organizations, we are not an investment worth making. Wisconsin residents deserve safe drinking water regardless of the source. Voting yes today, tells residents and the nation Wisconsin is a state which makes water safety and human safety, a priority.

Thank you