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March 28, 2018

The Honorable Patrick Breysse
Director
Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road SE
Atlanta, GA 30333

The Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan
Deputy Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Director Breysse and Deputy Secretary Shanahan:

Thank you for your commitment to investigating the public health effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), as directed in section 316 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. As you begin your work, I request you include the communities surrounding Peterson Air Force Base (AFB) in Colorado in the study on the cumulative health effects of PFAS exposure.

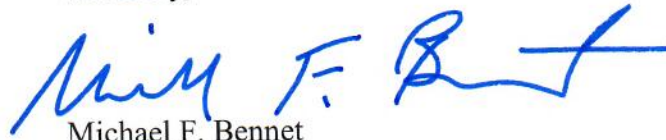
The Air Force is currently investigating the use of aqueous film forming foam at Peterson AFB as a source of PFAS to the Widefield Aquifer. The Widefield Aquifer provides drinking water for over 60,000 residents in three growing Colorado communities; Security, Widefield, and Fountain. There are also private wells in unincorporated El Paso County that rely on water pulled directly from the Widefield Aquifer. The initial site investigation at Peterson AFB found PFAS in groundwater at levels more than a thousand times higher than the EPA Health Advisory for drinking water.

After the discovery of PFAS in the Widefield Aquifer, three local water districts have spent millions in an effort to provide clean, safe water to their customers. This included the closure of wells and infrastructure improvements to access new water supplies. In 2016, the Air Force committed \$4.3 million for immediate relief efforts such as distributing temporary water supplies and individual water filters. Despite these efforts, residents remain concerned about their health and safety in light of their long-term exposure to PFAS in drinking water from the Widefield Aquifer. The PFAS health study is an important step toward additional information.

As you work to implement the NDAA-required study, I urge you to include the communities of Security, Widefield, and Fountain near Peterson AFB. Additionally, I urge you to consider whether there may be opportunities to use federally supported research already underway at the

University of Colorado and Colorado School of Mines to measure markers and health indicators of PFAS exposure. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Bennet". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator