The PFAS Community Campaign is a coalition of organizations and individuals working together to prevent exposures to PFAS via drinking water and other pathways.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of man-made toxic chemicals used to make consumer products resistant to water, grease or stains. Research has shown probable links between PFAS exposure and cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis, and pregnancy-induced hypertension.

Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing PFAS has been used by the Department of Defense for over 40 years for suppressing liquid fuel fires, fire-training exercises and other emergency fire response activities. As a result of these activities, groundwater, surface water, and plants and animals in the vicinity of military installations have become contaminated with PFAS, some much more than others.

Industrial sites like the Tyco/Johnson Controls facilities in Marinette, Wisconsin are sources of PFAS groundwater contamination that has spread from these sites, threatening nearby fisheries and affecting residential wells. So far, at least 36 families have been exposed to PFAS in their drinking water. The highest concentration detected in a private well was 1900 ng/L, far above the EPA’s Health Advisory Level of 70 ng/L (parts per trillion).

The major types of human exposure sources for PFAS include contaminated drinking water and ingesting food contaminated with PFAS, including fish and shellfish. PFAS research also shows that the developing fetus can be exposed to PFAS when umbilical cord blood from their mothers crosses the placenta during pregnancy.

Newborns can be exposed to PFAS through breast milk. Older children may be exposed to PFAS through food and water, similar to adults. In addition, toddlers and young children have a higher risk of exposure to PFAS from stain-resistant carpeting and similar products, largely due to time spent lying and crawling on floors in their early years.

For these reasons, we are calling on Congress for a total ban on the production and use of PFAS by 2020 to assure the transition to safer non-fluorinated alternatives and to stop further assaults on our human environment.