



COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION
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MEMBERS

TOMMY BARNES, DIST. 1
W. TYRUS MANSELL, DIST. 2
JIMMY GARDINER, DIST. 3
TORI BAILEY, DIST. 4
DAROL BENDALL, DIST. 5
DAVID C. ISOM, DIST. 6

April 1, 2025

RE: *North Alabama Council on Local Governments*
Washington, D.C. Meetings
April 2025

Dear Public Officials:

Thank you for hearing our concerns about our community's water quality and forever chemical pollution. We were told during the election that President Trump wants clean and pristine water for all Americans. This letter is written to help accomplish that goal by providing information, and to request your support for the citizens of Colbert County.

Our county depends on the Tennessee River for 100% of its drinking water. The river has been polluted with a chemical known as PFOS which 3M Company manufactured upriver in Decatur, Alabama. PFOS is known as one of the most toxic of all the "forever chemicals," and the EPA has designated the Tennessee River as an impaired waterway because of this pollution. Colbert County has litigation pending against the chemical polluters to recover the cost for making the necessary upgrades to our water treatment plant to filter out PFOS from our drinking water.

There are those, primarily from the chemical manufacturing sector and from water treatment operators, who are not interested in becoming compliant in filtering forever chemical toxins from the water supply. They feel that Counties should actually support the suspension or elimination of contamination limits of PFOS and PFOA ("MCLs"). As Commissioners, however, we have a responsibility to protect our county's residents from these lab created substances. These are man-made "forever chemicals" that have been proven to be persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic ("PBT"). As we've learned, they should not be in the drinking water consumed by our residents. Any failure by a water treatment authority to take reasonable steps to remove these chemicals from the public water supply could result in legal liability from our own citizens for failure to have taken action, regardless of any EPA regulatory rollback.

If the EPA's MCLs on PFOS and PFOA are reversed or relaxed, the Chemical Manufacturers will no longer feel pressure to address threats or mitigate the damage to public

health and harm to the environment that they caused. Further, reversing or relaxing the EPA's MCLs on PFOS and PFOA will harm water authorities like ours who face legal liability for failing to remove the "forever chemicals" from their drinking water supply. Any attempt to relax the EPA's standards will benefit the polluters and cause harm to our citizens.

The people of Colbert County who live downstream from the plant that made the most hazardous of all forever chemicals (PFOS) welcomed the President's promise. We appreciate your help in working to make his promise a reality.

On behalf of the Colbert County Commission,



Jeremy Robison, P.E.
County Engineer
Colbert County Rural Water System

cc:

United States Senator Tommy Tuberville
BB&T Centre
41 West I-65
Service Road North, Suite 2300-A
Mobile, AL 36608

United States Senator Katie Britt
United States Federal Courthouse
One Church Street
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Montgomery, AL 36104

United States Representative Robert Aderholt
1011 George Wallace Blvd.
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