

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the project named the “Active Source Attribution of PFAS (ASAP) to Keep Water Bills Low” in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, located at 800 Drillfield Drive, Ste 134, Blacksburg, Va 24061.

The funding would be used to rapidly execute a regional study of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in soils throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area (WMA) and provide knowledge to advance our understanding of PFAS contamination nationwide.


The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because widespread PFAS contamination of soils and sediments could be a significant pollution source for surface and groundwater supplies of more than 6 million people throughout the WMA; yet, the sources and relative contribution of each source are currently unknown. This funding will allow for a rapid and large-scale collection of water, sediment, and biological samples to identify sources of PFAS and refine current estimates of PFAS contributions from wastewater, stormwater, and groundwater pathways. With this data, officials can deploy more targeted monitoring and assess the feasibility of source protection and remediation to remove PFAS from drinking watersheds. This project is urgent and economically consequential for both the WMA and the nation as a whole, as new federal regulatory limits for specific types of PFAS (PFOA and PFOS) in drinking water take effect in 2029, and water utilities are planning for hundreds of millions of dollars in new capital upgrades and annual operating costs to implement advanced technology. A large-scale survey of PFAS soil contamination to identify source control opportunities will support decision-making by utilities and policymakers and enable cost-benefit comparisons with utility treatment upgrades to protect public health while minimizing financial impacts.

Because of NIST’s deep measurement capabilities, NIST has long had an active research program in PFAS to tackle the complex question of PFAS contamination. The analysis of complex samples represents a daunting challenge that is exacerbated by the limits of analytical instrumentation, the lack of analytical standards, and the pervasive presence of PFAS contaminants in the laboratory environment. This research initiative aligns with advancing the decades long work of NIST to increase confidence in PFAS measurement. The work from this project will be used to advise government and industry on scientific and technical problems related to protecting safe drinking water.

This project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.