

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 21, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Administrator Zeldin:

We are writing to alert you to an urgent public health matter affecting my constituents in Tiverton, Rhode Island, due to dangerous levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in private wells. More than half of the private wells tested to date have exceeded Rhode Island's 20 parts-per-trillion standard, and testing is still underway. With some wells registering PFAS concentrations above 4,000 parts per trillion, Tiverton families urgently need help accessing safe drinking water and determining the scope and source of this contamination.

As of the latest testing, 87 of 157 private wells have exceeded the state's 20 ppt threshold, with 27 additional tests pending. The highest concentrations found are more than 19,900 times the state standard. The contamination has affected residents in and around Crandall Road, Bulgarmarsh Road, and Stafford Road, with testing continuing to expand the affected area.

For these families, the harm is not abstract. They rely on private wells for the water they drink, cook with, bathe in, and use every day. Residents are relying on bottled water and emergency supplies while confronting uncertainty about whether the water in their homes is safe. Some of the most heavily contaminated wells cannot be treated with standard systems.

The Town of Tiverton is working to design a new public water line to serve affected homes, and costs are expected to rise as testing identifies additional contaminated properties. The Town and North Tiverton Fire District have also sought emergency assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to extend public water to homes with contamination levels too high for treatment.

We understand Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has tools that are supporting this response. States may use EPA's State Revolving Funds to administer loans and the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities program supports PFAS-related testing, including efforts involving private wells. EPA also offers technical assistance to help communities assess PFAS problems and navigate these funding opportunities.

The immediate priority of all levels of government must be to protect residents and get clean drinking water to families who need it as quickly as possible.

We respectfully request that the EPA:

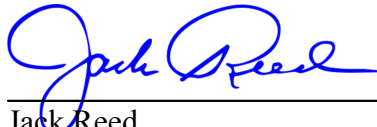
- Help identify additional resources, including federal funding opportunities, for a public water extension, other long-term drinking water infrastructure, and broader private-well testing so more residents can access safe drinking water at home.
- Work alongside USDA, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and local officials to ensure that the federal government is providing a clear and coordinated response, including support for the pending emergency water assistance request.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and ask that the EPA engage directly with Tiverton officials and our state partners to identify a path forward. We are ready to work with you to ensure Tiverton residents have the federal support they need.

Sincerely,



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator