

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 8, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We write in support of North Tiverton Fire District's application for funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Emergency Community Water Assistance grant. This funding would help launch the installation of an emergency public water line to restore reliable drinking water to homeowners whose private wells have been contaminated with dangerous levels of PFAS.

Residents in the affected zones, including Crandall Road, Bulgarmarsh Road, and Stafford Road, cited elevated PFAS levels in their private wells, reaching over 4,000 parts per trillion (ppt), more than 19,900% above the state's safety limit of 20 ppt. Testing as of September 1, shows that 63 out of 113 private wells exceeded safety limits, with 3 homes so heavily contaminated that standard filtration cannot treat the water. Residents are now relying on bottled water deliveries and emergency supplies brought in from nearby communities. This water crisis has disrupted residents' livelihoods, forcing families to rethink their daily routines, including cooking and showering.

The installation of a new water line will immediately restore safe, reliable drinking water in the areas with particularly elevated levels. Construction will conclude before the end of December, protecting homeowners ahead of potential severe winter storms. Any further delay extends public exposure to hazardous chemicals, directly increasing the risk of kidney and other cancers, weakening immune response, and contributing to lower birth weights. This installation is vital to safeguard residents' health and prevent further devastating economic disruption to the community.

We support North Tiverton Fire District's proposal and respectfully request your consideration of its application, within all applicable rules and regulations of your agency. If we can be of further assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our offices. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress