PFAS RESOLUTION

Whereas perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that do not occur naturally in the environment. There are thousands of these ubiquitous man-made chemicals and have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950’s. PFAS are extremely persistent in the environment and resistant to typical degradation processes. PFAS has created a public health crisis;

Whereas perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are the two most studied PFAS. Exposure to PFOS and PFOA is widespread and global. PFOS and PFOA also persist in the human body and are eliminated slowly. PFOS and PFOA pose adverse effects for human health if ingested and are known to bioaccumulate. The laboratory blood test for PFAS detection in the human body has limitations;

Whereas the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) located in Maple Ridge and Wilson Townships and the former Alpena Hide and Leather located within the City of Alpena. Nearby homes or businesses have been affected by PFOS and PFOA plumes. An alternate water source was recommended for homes/businesses near the CRTC;

Whereas PFAS levels are known to bioaccumulate in animals and the research on wildlife, fish, and game is limited. Toxicologists warn people to not eat animals with PFAS contamination1;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level for two PFAS in drinking water, PFOS and PFOA. The LHA level is 70 parts per trillion (ppt, equal to 70 ng/L) for PFOS and PFOA combined, or individually if only one is present. The EPA has not set health advisory levels for other PFAS compounds. In January 2018, the State of Michigan adopted 70 ppt for decision making purposes;

Whereas House Bill 5373, introduced in 2018, recommends a state standard for PFAS in drinking water of 5-ppt for PFOS and PFOA, which is 14 times lower than the EPA’s level of 70-ppt. The State of Michigan is exploring lower levels for seven

---

1 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. (Revised 5/2018). An Overview of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Interim Guidance for Clinicians Responding to Patient Exposure Concerns
PFAS compounds. Subsequently, residents have lost confidence in the 70 ppt protective value and continue to wait for scientific advisory to state government and bi-partisan legislative support for PFAS regulations;

Whereas the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) in 2018 developed a plan to test all wells associated with community water supplies, schools, child care providers, and Michigan Head Start Programs (Type II). Through this initiative, Oak Leaf Manor located in Lewiston was found to have PFAS in their well, placing the Type 1 water supply in the “middle bucket”. MDEQ will be retesting and monitoring for one (1) year. The State of Michigan has several ongoing PFAS site investigations and resources of time and funding during this rapidly growing situation have been limited, which has burdened State and local governments;

Whereas the MDEQ sent a letter to the Combat Readiness Training Center/Michigan Air National Guard regarding cleanup of PFAS contamination and delineation of the contamination plume. The Combat Readiness Training Center/Michigan Air Nation Guard response is to achieve these goals and will request funding through the Air Force for funding in fiscal year 2019 or 2020. The Department of Defense remains neglectful of its ethical and financial obligations to the community;

Whereas recently, the former Alpena Leather and Hide within the City of Alpena has been identified to have PFAS contamination concerns by MDEQ. This has prompted MDEQ to initiate a site investigative plan which includes continued monitoring and piloted cleanup of the site;

Whereas heightened concerns for biosolids utilized is increasing and criteria that eliminates PFAS contamination needs to be established in land application use;

Whereas especially alarming for rural communities is the unknown effect of PFAS contamination on farms, livestock, or food products. There is very little scientific data and research to address PFAS in agriculture and livestock;

Whereas a 2012 MDEQ report outlining concerns for human health and exposure to PFAS chemicals and clear recommendations was largely not acted upon and not available to District Health Department No. 4 (DHD4) nor the public until summer of 2018;

2 Michigan’s PFAS Response website: www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse
Whereas the community and businesses in PFAS affected areas in Alpena County have been stigmatized. Residents and veterans bear the burden of concerns with health and financial impacts. Clearly, they are deserving of answers, immediate and effective remediation efforts, and compensation.

Therefore, Be It Resolved,

The MDEQ must act with a sense of urgency to compel the Department of Defense to immediately stop the release of all PFAS contaminated water from the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center into the surrounding groundwater. Additionally, The Department of Defense must be held accountable as the responsible party for the contamination and be made responsible for remediation and compensation efforts;

The EPA must no longer shun its ethical duty to provide national leadership and promulgate an inclusive, high priority timeline and plan for states regarding the regulation of PFOS and PFOA; and nationally move in an expeditious and comprehensive manner;

Recognizing that PFAS has created a public health crisis, we are at a crossroads awaiting scientific research. It is imperative that a national commitment is made to allocate resources for the funding of scientific investigations of PFAS to garner data and recommendations;

It is imperative that federal, state and local agencies coordinate epidemiological studies to create a body of knowledge to fully understand the health effects on the human body. Additionally, the Department of Defense needs to fund the exposure investigation of veterans and families and meet any of their future health needs. These studies are necessary to keep medical professionals knowledgeable about PFAS and their effects on human health, because as a nation we will be dealing with the effects of PFAS for decades to come;

Federal and Michigan legislators must heed scientific research and act prudently which will likely require a reduction in the LHA levels for PFAS chemicals in drinking water. Additionally, legislation limiting the use of PFOS and PFOA, including biosolids in land application use, must be introduced;

Adequate and continuous funding to State and local public health departments is necessary to allow for continuous and effective public health interventions in the coming decades;
The continuation of the coordinated response from MPART must operate in a robust and comprehensive manner, addressing ongoing site investigations and proactively lead the State of Michigan in dealing with PFAS;

Innovative technology needs to be explored and developed to address the remediation of foam on inland lakes and waters and we must work expediently to restore our bodies of water to a more natural state;

Resources be provided to the residents and veterans which will address their PFAS exposure concerns, their physical and mental well-being, and make them whole with retribution.

Signed this day of \text{August 20, 2019}\ by:

\text{Date}

District Health Department No. 4 Board of Health Commission Chair:

\text{Signature}