



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 10, 2025

Attn: Cheryl Sinclair
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields
Northcentral Regional Office
208 W. Third Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701

RE: Benner Township PFAS Investigation Consent Order and Agreement

To the Department of Environmental Protection:

On behalf of the current residents – my constituents – and businesses located within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Investigation Area in Benner Township, and in preparation for any future development therein, I would like to formally submit my comments to the Consent Order and Agreement (COA) between DEP and The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State).

Regarding Remedial Actions required by Penn State, I believe the only viable and effective long-term solution, as noted in section 4(h)(i) of the COA, is for the installation of a public water system. Understanding that feasibility studies for a public water system have been submitted and that the engineering and maintenance of such a system may have some difficulties as well as extensive costs, it is truly the most effective and desirable solution for residents who have found themselves in harm's way through no fault of their own. Penn State should bear a significant part of the financial responsibility for the development and maintenance of that system.

Although a Point-of-Entry Treatment system can be an effective filtration system, it is also my understanding that Penn State will not be required to maintain those systems in perpetuity once they take further administrative actions to designate them as the "final remedy." At that point, impacted residents and surrounding areas will be on their own to provide themselves with safe water. I find this to be an unacceptable stipulation of the COA which prematurely releases Penn State from their responsibility to provide a permanent solution.

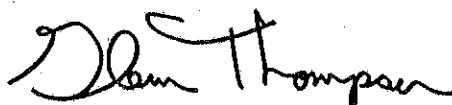
I recognize that Penn State was acting under federal guidelines from the Federal Aviation Administration in the airport's use of aqueous film-forming foam, and they were most likely were unaware of the potential environmental and health effects of its use. Be that as it may, Penn State has been deemed a "responsible person" in the mitigation and remediation of the effects of

PFAS in the investigation area according to the COA, and they should not be absolved of future responsibilities to impacted communities.

To that end, I strongly recommend that, in their quest to be a good neighbor as they have historically been, Penn State works with local municipal water authorities to develop a public water system that will bring safe, potable water to impacted residents. In the meantime, it is my continued hope that DEP will continue to fulfill its mission to protect these communities and ensure the health and well-being of those impacted by this investigation.

It is my understanding that similar comments have been filed by Senator Cris Dush, and we stand ready to provide assistance to residents and businesses in Benner Township in their ongoing pursuit of a public water system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glenn" written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name "Thompson" written in a more extended, flowing script.

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress