



CHRIS TAYLOR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**For More Information, Contact:**

Rep. Chris Taylor, 608-266-5342

## **Rep. Taylor Applauds DHS & DNR for New PFAS Actions and Calls on Air National Guard to Clean Up Contamination**

*Elevated levels of PFAS in Starkweather Creek and Lake Monona linked to Truax Field Contamination*

MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Health Services (DHS) issued new fish consumption advisories for Starkweather Creek and Lake Monona due to elevated levels of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in fish. The DNR also said that Starkweather Creek has the highest levels of PFAS contamination out of the six areas around the state that were tested by the DNR. PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals used in numerous products that has been found to adversely impact human health in many ways, including pregnancy complications and increased risk of some forms of cancer.

According to the DNR, PFAS contamination was found in Starkweather Creek from its headwaters northeast and east of the airport down its length to where it flows into Lake Monona. The highest concentration was found in areas surrounding the Dane County Regional Airport and the Truax Air National Guard Base. In an October 31<sup>st</sup> letter to Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar, former chief of the Air National Guard, the DNR reaffirmed that the Guard is responsible for this contamination due to past unsafe use of PFAS-based firefighting foam. The letter also declared the Guard is in violation of spill and environmental remediation laws for not taking action to restore the environment and minimize the harmful effects of past spills.

Representative Chris Taylor (D-Madison) released the following statement:

“I applaud our state agencies for taking aggressive action to address the alarming crisis of PFAS contamination in our soil, groundwater and beautiful waterways. But my community deserves relief and remediation. Unfortunately, the Air National Guard and Department of Defense continue to refuse to take necessary actions to clean up their contamination and protect our people and our environment. It is hard to fathom that in a military budget of billions, protecting the health of our environment and our people is not a bigger priority. I believe that the known numerous PFAS contamination sites at Truax field are just the tip of the iceberg.

“If the Air National Guard wants to be a good neighbor in our community, they must immediately begin working with the DNR on a plan for remediation in order to restore the natural environment, remediate their contamination and minimize the harm their actions are directly causing. This needs to be their focus and their priority.”

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