

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
18TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5441

123 GRAND ST., 2ND FLOOR
NEWBURGH, NY 12550
(845) 561-1259

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

August 16, 2016

Ash Carter
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Sec Def Carter:

As you know, recent testing found abnormally and unacceptably high levels of PFOA and PFOS contaminants in the drinking water supply of Newburgh, New York. Following these tests New York State undertook an investigation into the water contamination in Newburgh. That investigation showed extremely high levels of those contaminants in the immediate vicinity of Stewart Air National Guard Base. As a result, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) declared the site an Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site (Class 2), more commonly referred to as a state Superfund site. DEC has stated that this contamination represents "a significant threat to public health" and that the water supply contamination has likely come from the release of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) from Stewart Airport and Stewart Air National Guard Base. As such, DEC has requested commitment from the Department of Defense (DoD) to develop, implement, and finance a Remedial Program for the contamination site.

I appreciate your willingness to meet my previous request to prioritize Stewart Air National Guard Base in DoD's current review of military bases to test for groundwater contamination stemming from the use of fire-fighting foams. Given the evidence suggesting that the source of contamination in Newburgh's drinking water is due to use of AFFF at Stewart, I request that DoD comply with DEC's request for DoD to implement a Remedial Program and to enter into a legally binding agreement to address all site-related issues.

There will undoubtedly be many issues to address going forward but the thousands of my constituents who rely on Newburgh's water supply deserve to know that they and their families have access to clean water and that their government will not fail them again.

Thank you for your service and I look forward to working with you on this.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress