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

May 10, 2016

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz:

I am writing you today regarding my serious concerns with the governmental response to the PFOA water contamination problems in and near Hoosick Falls and Petersburg in New York's 19th Congressional District. Especially given the high publicity of these water issues in New York State and the Flint crisis in Michigan, I believe it is critically important to bring as much transparency and coordination in Federal and State responses to assure our constituents in the event of future water infrastructure problems.

This situation has continued to evolve and, in some ways, worsen over the past year. Although there have been actions taken to address these problems, many of my constituents are deeply concerned with potential ongoing health risks to their families, delayed and confused responses by the State and Federal agencies involved, and lack of accountability to find out what happened and why it was allowed to go on after the initial detection of the contamination of their water supply.

It is this last component regarding accountability that I am referring to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Critical questions regarding the actions of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, New York State Department of Health, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation remain unanswered. Regrettably, the New York Legislature has changed course and now will not conduct oversight hearings on what went wrong and why, after stating they would be holding hearings on the matter. This has only increased frustration and concern amongst many of my constituents and myself that our regulatory agencies are not facing the necessary and appropriate oversight of their actions.

Based on this, I am requesting that your Committee look into this matter immediately so that the mistakes can be identified, accountability can be achieved, and recommendations based on the lessons learned can be implemented moving forward. I believe your Subcommittee on the Interior is already aware of this situation, and if I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very sincerely,

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and
Land Forces

Subcommittee on Readiness

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Conservation
and Forestry

Subcommittee on Biotechnology,
Horticulture, and Research

HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy
and Trade

Subcommittee on Contracting and
Workforce