

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Barbara M. Barrett
Secretary of the Air Force
U.S. Department of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon,
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Barrett:

We write to follow-up on our July 31, 2019 letter requesting a site visit of the Dover Air Force Base (Dover AFB) by you or a knowledgeable delegate from the Department of the Air Force. The visit would provide us all with an opportunity to discuss contamination of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances on and surrounding Dover AFB.

The two recent and additional discoveries of contaminated commercial wells near the airbase underscore the importance of a senior Air Force official visiting Dover AFB and publicly briefing the local community, Delaware state government, and the congressional delegation on the plans for PFAS mitigation surrounding the airbase.¹ Such a briefing should include plans to provide permanent municipal water sources to the surrounding community, current or planned remediation efforts, and other efforts undertaken and proposed by the Department of Defense that may affect the Dover, Delaware community.

We wish to thank the Dover AFB and your Department for their efforts to address the contamination presently affecting the local community, including the improved transparency they have provided local and federal stakeholders. While much work remains to be done, providing a senior official to explain the immediate and long-term plans for remediation, to answer questions, and to address any concerns will further improve the relationship between the airbase and the local community.

We will continue to advocate for strong federal laws to address PFAS contamination stemming from the military and other sources, as well as the tools the military and the community need to address PFAS contamination.

We ask that you please respond to this letter no later than March 27, 2020, and we thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. CARPER
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator

CC: Hon. John W. Henderson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy

¹ Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, *Two wells near Dover AFB have possible elevated PFOS/PFOA levels*. February 25, 2020. Accessed February 27, 2020.
<https://news.delaware.gov/2020/02/25/two-wells-near-dover-afb-have-possible-elevated-pfos-pfoa-levels/>