



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, July 16, 2023

### Forever Chemicals Don't Belong in Our Bodies or Our Environment

In 2023, it's hard to get away from breaking news about PFAS, a class of more than 12,000 chemicals used in countless everyday products. (Jeff Kluger, *TIME*, 7/3/23)

“PFAS, which stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are **a class of *long-lasting forever chemicals*, many of which accumulate in human bodies and are extremely toxic, even at miniscule levels.** PFAS can be found in everyday products like nonstick pans, waterproof jackets, mascara, and hairspray. In addition, they've been detected in the drinking water supplies in more than 1,000 communities nationwide, including major cities like New York, Washington D.C., and Chicago....

PFAS were created in the 1940s and used in products like Teflon and firefighting foam. Companies like 3M and Dupont have manufactured and dumped PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS for decades — despite knowing of those chemicals' severe risks — resulting in **widespread drinking water contamination.** 3M recently announced that they will stop making PFAS by the end of 2025, but this doesn't reverse the damage done throughout the decades or assist the many communities that are already contaminated by PFAS.

While PFOA and PFOS have been largely phased out of production in the United States due to links to cancers and birth defects, they are still present in the environment and in products that are being imported into the U.S. Moreover, other PFAS **continue to be produced in massive quantities and released to the air, water, and soil.**” (Jonathan Kalmuss-Katz, Senior Attorney, Toxic Exposure & Health Program, *Earthjustice*, 6/8/23)

“PFAS are linked to cancer and other serious health risks at incredibly low doses, and an estimated 200 million Americans are still exposed to PFAS-contaminated tap water. [A first-of-its kind study by Waterkeeper Alliance of 114 waterways from across the country found 83% of the waters tested were contaminated by dangerous PFAS chemicals.] They're known as 'forever chemicals' because they do not break down and build up in our bloodstreams over time.

**Right now, Congress is considering unprecedented loopholes that would allow companies to avoid responsibility for cleaning up their PFAS pollution...** The proposed loopholes would also eliminate incentives for polluters to avoid discharging even more PFAS pollution.” (*Environmental Working Group*, 7/10/23)

[Click here to send a message to Congress telling them to hold PFAS polluters accountable. Your voice will help us to ensure dangerous “forever chemicals” get removed from our environment.](#)