

March XX, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Pingree, Chairman Merkley and Ranking Members Joyce and Murkowski:

The undersigned public health and environmental health organizations urge you to provide \$93 million for the Substances and Disease Registry in the FY 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We thank you for the \$1.3 million increase for ATSDR in FY 2021 and we are also grateful for the \$12.5 million in emergency supplemental appropriations provided to ATSDR for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities including for mapping of disease outbreak hotspots and providing guidance on safe disinfectant practices and healthy home environments.

ATSDR establishes and maintains effective relationships with people in communities that are impacted by environmental hazards throughout the nation. ATSDR assists impacted

environmental health expertise, regional locations and ability to respond 24/7 enables the agency to respond to and address environmental health threats from chemical spills and other

In FY 2019, ATSDR responded to more than 700 community, state, and federal requests, addressing the potential health risk of over 2 million people around the country. The agency also educated over 31,600 health professionals on ways to diagnose and treat conditions related to hazardous exposures. ATSDR is conducting groundbreaking work to address emerging contaminants, such as the first ever nation-wide exposure assessments at sites with high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance in drinking water. With the objective to determine serum PFAS concentrations in the community and understand how they compare to the general population, the EAs have included 2,345 participants, assessed over 1,398 households and reached over 150,000 people through social media.

As a result of the increased funding received in FY 2020, ATSDR increased the number of states funded through the ATSDR Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement to 28. Sixteen recipient states received an additional \$1.4 million in COVID-19 supplemental funding through APPLETREE to provide

