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Town of Shaftsbury

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November 14, 2025

The Honorable Phil Scott
Governor of Vermont
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Re: Request for Mitigation of and Compensation for PFAS Levels in Residents' Wells

Dear Governor Scott,

As Town Administrator of Shaftsbury, VT, I write to you on behalf of our Selectboard and residents regarding the ongoing and serious presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including PFOA, in our soil and private water wells. Our community remains deeply concerned about the long-term health implications of exposure to these “forever chemicals,” which persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in the human body.

The Town of Shaftsbury formally requests that the State of Vermont take immediate and comprehensive action to address the PFAS (including PFOA) contamination affecting private wells and properties in our community. Our residents deserve the same level of mitigation, compensation, and medical monitoring that was made available to the residents of the Town of Bennington during its PFAS crisis.

PFAS contamination is not only an environmental issue; it is a public health, financial, and quality-of-life crisis for the families who rely on private wells for their drinking water. While we appreciate ongoing state coordination, Shaftsbury residents continue to face the burden of uncertainty about their health, the value of their homes, and the safety of their water.

Accordingly, we urge you to support and implement the following:

- **Comprehensive mitigation measures**, including long-term access to safe drinking water and appropriate infrastructure solutions for affected residents.
- **Fair compensation for property owners**, consistent with what was provided in Bennington, recognizing the financial impacts this contamination has imposed on Shaftsbury households.
- **State-supported medical monitoring**, including blood testing for PFAS levels, so residents can understand their personal exposure and make informed decisions about their health.

The people of Shaftsbury should not be treated differently or less comprehensively than the people of Bennington, who received significant state support and negotiated remedies related to their PFAS contamination. Our community is simply asking for equal treatment, fairness, and a responsible, coordinated response.

We will continue to press for these protections and will keep the public informed as we receive responses from the Governor's office and state agencies.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your response and to working together to protect the health of Vermonters.

Respectfully,

Paula Iken
Town Administrator
Town of Shaftsbury, Vermont
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