

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

PFAS AWARENESS WEEK

2024

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

## A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, all North Carolinians deserve and expect access to clean drinking water and should be protected from harmful contaminants that pose a risk to their health; and

**WHEREAS**, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, refer to a group of man-made chemicals that for decades have been widely used in commercial and consumer products, industrial processes and manufacturing; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific research shows that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to adverse human health outcomes including developmental delays in children, increased risk of some cancers, reduced immunity and more; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina took legal action against Chemours which was responsible for GenX emissions and obtained a court order which holds Chemours accountable, including through measures to reduce and mitigate GenX emissions and discharges from the Chemours facility and the provision of replacement drinking water to more than 8,500 homes with private wells; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned expanded the scope of the Secretaries' Science Advisory Board to include a broader focus on emerging chemicals and their potential health and environmental impacts;

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina regulators, scientists and research partners are working tirelessly to reduce the harm caused by PFAS, including researching mitigation technologies and protecting people's health; and

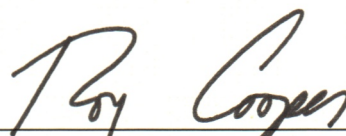
**WHEREAS**, on April 10, 2024, at the undersigned's request, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set National Primary Drinking Water Standards for six PFAS compounds to protect the public from health impacts of exposure; it is estimated that more than 3.4 million North Carolinians consume drinking water from public water systems with levels of PFAS higher than the National Primary Drinking Water Standards established by EPA; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 7, 2022, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released the DEQ Action Strategy for PFAS to protect communities, protect drinking water, and clean up existing contamination; DEQ has conducted testing of more than 650 water systems to identify PFAS contamination, established the PFAS Treatment Assistance Program to support private well owners in treating water regardless of income, and is pursuing the establishment of groundwater and surface water standards to protect consumers from bearing the full cost of compliance with drinking water standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned has called on the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation to hold polluters accountable for the cost of cleaning up chemicals they release and to establish a \$100 million fund to help communities clean their water and comply with the EPA National Primary Drinking Water Standards;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 3 – 7, 2024, as "PFAS AWARENESS WEEK" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirtieth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.