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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 26, 2016

Howard Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza,
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Dr. Zucker:

I am writing this as a follow-up to my letter to you from December 29, 2015. Since that date, there have been many developments in the ongoing PFOA water contamination problem in the Hoosick Falls area that remain outstanding.

My December letter asked for the NYS Department of Health to conduct a health/cancer study of residents in the Hoosick Falls area to determine if there is any correlation between higher PFOA exposure rates in the village and increased risk of cancer or other health maladies. To date I have not received a response to that request.

I have since been contacted by concerned residents in Petersburg regarding their worries about PFOA exposure, and they too have requested I ask the State DOH to perform a health study/cancer risk assessment in their community as well.

I commend your Department for offering blood tests to residents in both Hoosick Falls and Petersburg to determine exposure to PFOA. However, I am hearing from concerned constituents who had their blood tested back in February as to why they are not getting any results back yet from the DOH. Given that this is a priority situation for all involved, including the DOH, there is growing anxiety that the blood test results are not being shared with those who were tested. Is there an expected date that the initial blood test results can be reported back to those residents?

This situation continues to be a top priority for my office. I thank you for the work that Department of Health staff have been involved with on this issue to date, and know your team is working hard to address all the many health concerns the residents of Hoosick Falls and Petersburgh are apprehensive about.

Please get back to me with any information regarding upcoming health/cancer studies your Department may be considering for the Northeast Rensselaer County area that I can share with our constituents. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact my District Director Steve Bulger at my Kinderhook Congressional Office at 518-610-8133. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gibson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress