

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 3, 2026

The Honorable W. Jordan Gillis
Assistant Secretary of the Army
110 Army Pentagon, Room 3E464
Washington, D.C. 20310-0110

Dear Assistant Secretary Gillis,

Thank you for visiting the community of Grayling and attending the Camp Grayling Restoration Advisory Board (CGRAB) meeting on May 19, 2026. We appreciate that the community had the opportunity to share their concerns with you directly regarding the Army's efforts to clean up harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center (Camp Grayling). Unfortunately, despite PFAS contamination being discovered at Camp Grayling in 2017, significant work remains to remediate the area, and the community has been left frustrated by delays.

As you know, PFAS chemicals remain a persistent threat to the health of our communities and environment, and the residents of Grayling continue to deal with decades of the Army's use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) fire suppressant at Camp Grayling.

As the Congressional representatives for the Grayling community, it is our responsibility to work with the Army to address PFAS contamination at Camp Grayling and protect the health and wellbeing of the Grayling community. As such, we write in follow up to your visit to share our remaining concerns regarding remediation efforts at Camp Grayling and to receive, in writing, confirmation of the Army's commitment to addressing PFAS contamination at Camp Grayling within 30 days of receipt.

- **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Rollback of National Drinking Water Standards for PFAS**

On May 20, 2026, EPA proposed rulemaking to rescind regulations regarding maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for four types of PFAS, including perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), a core active ingredient in the AFFF fire suppressant used by the Army at Camp Grayling. Analysis conducted by the CGRAB suggests up to 25% of affected properties who were due to receive Department of Defense funding are contaminated with PFHxS. During your recent visit to meet with the CGRAB, it was communicated that despite the rollback of EPA's MCL on PFHxS, that Army would continue to provide funding to affected properties to ensure they are able to access clean drinking water, consistent with Army's cleanup obligations under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). We respectfully ask that you

communicate, in writing, Army's commitment to move forward with PFHxS remediation at Grayling in line with the standards set by the State of Michigan so as to ensure clean drinking water to impacted residents.

- **Provision of Alternative Water Sources**

On June 25, 2024, the Army issued policy direction regarding how the Army should integrate the new Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) into its cleanup program. The Army's policy direction reinforced the importance of demonstrating to the Army's regulatory stakeholders and communities that the mitigation of PFAS impacts from Army activities was a top priority. In keeping with this Army policy direction, the Army Guard began providing bottled water at facilities where sampling results indicated private drinking water wells exceeded EPA MCLs, including Camp Grayling in Michigan. Today, these households depend on this provision of safe drinking water as remediation efforts progress. Does the Army commit to continuing to provide bottled water to impacted households in Grayling? Further, does the Army commit to abiding by Section 317 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, which outlines when DoD must provide alternative drinking water to households whose private drinking water is contaminated with PFAS from Department Activities.

- **Delay in Remediation at Grayling Army Airfield Remediation**

We are concerned about further delays to remediation at the Grayling Army Airfield, where PFAS contamination puts residential drinking water wells and the health of the Grayling community at risk. It was understood that additional testing would take place in 2026 and remediation would begin in 2027, but community members were told during your May 19 visit that remediation would instead be pushed until at least 2028. Each year of delay increases the risk of contamination to the community and the broader northern Michigan watershed as contamination continues moving from Grayling to Lake Huron through the AuSable River. We respectfully urge the Army to begin remediation at the Grayling Army Airfield in 2027 and to respond, in writing, with the Army's timeline for remedial action at the Grayling Army Airfield.

- **Delay in Remediation of Camp Grayling Cantonment**

Similarly, we are concerned about the delay in remedial action at the Camp Grayling Cantonment, where DoD has reported that remedial activity will not be complete until 2041. The Army's plan to undertake additional testing for two years at the Camp Grayling Cantonment instead of initiating remedial action threatens the long-term health of the environment, as PFAS levels in Lake Margrethe will keep rising, and there is also concern that PFAS contamination will continue to move west in the Manistee River affecting drinking water in more homes and threatening the health of the Great Lakes Basin. We recognize that science and testing are absolutely necessary to inform effective

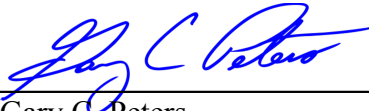
remedial action, but after nine years of testing and studying, the community of Grayling deserves meaningful remediation. We urge the Army to initiate an Interim Remedial Action at the Camp Grayling Cantonment and respond, in writing, with the Army's timeline for full remediation of the Camp Grayling Cantonment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. The community of Grayling has been struggling with PFAS contamination for nearly a decade, and it is time for meaningful on-the-ground action to address it. These commitments will illustrate the Army's commitment to addressing the PFAS contamination it is responsible for and the strength of the Army's commitment to the community of Grayling.

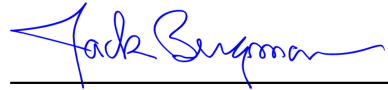
Sincerely,



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress