Fayetteville Mayor Mitch Colvin: Well good morning, everyone, what a wonderful day to be in Fayetteville North Carolina so give yourselves a hand. (Applause) I am deeply honored and so grateful and privileged to be here today to welcome Secretary Regan, Governor Cooper, Attorney General Josh Stein and so many others but before I make my very brief remarks I'd like to welcome my colleagues on the City Council that are here today, if you could stand just to make sure I don't miss anyone so thank you City Council. (Applause) Also I'll be remised to catch our County Commissioners, the Chair, and the Vice Chair here Chairman Adams and Vice Chair Stewart thank you (applause) and of course we certainly could do none of this without our very great advocates on the state level, the State Delegation so I see Senator Applewhite and other state elected officials that are past and present, thank you. You know today is such an important day in our community. The City of Fayetteville is a great resilient community that has been unfortunately in the crosshairs of both natural and unnatural created and unintentional disasters here in our community, but we know one thing for sure that clean safe drinking water is not only a privilege but it's a right for the citizens of Fayetteville, Cumberland County, and the surrounding communities. (Applause) So today because of the hard work of a very tenacious Attorney General, because of our Governor and his leadership and because now they have engaged the federal government and Secretary Regan and others who have contributed to today's success. We're grateful to hear about the great things that are in store to continue to restore safe clean drinking water to the City of Fayetteville and the surrounding communities, so I thank you for coming today. I welcome all of our dignitaries and others that have worked so hard to make this day possible and with that I will give way to our Attorney General Josh Stein. (Applause)

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein: Good morning, everybody. Mayor Colvin thank you for the introduction, thank you for having us, thank everybody for being here this morning. I want to thank my friend Administrator Regan who has been at the forefront of this issue of clean drinking water and this issue of PFAS from our first understanding of how serious this has been. Thank you so much Minister Regan. How cool is it to have a North Carolinian heading the EPA? He took what he saw and learned firsthand here in North Carolina up to Washington and is now benefiting the whole country with that understanding and he's going to have a big announcement today that proves that point directly. Thank you so much Administrator. I want to thank Governor Cooper; he has been focused on this major issue of clean drinking water from his time in the State Senate to his time as Attorney General to serving now as Governor and of course he had the foresight to hire then Michael Regan to become Secretary Regan before he became Administrator Regan. (Applause) Governor thank you for getting this state to focus seriously on this issue of dealing with PFAS. Today's news illustrates exactly how serious we are about addressing the threat that these forever chemicals pose to the people's health and wellbeing in North Carolina. The first ever National Drinking Water Standard for PFAS will make our water cleaner and safer and keep our people healthier. The North Carolina Department of Justice, my team and I we've been working hard to protect the air that we breathe and water we drink here in this State. When you turn on that faucet at home you shouldn't have to worry that drinking that water or taking a bath in that water will make you or your loved ones sick. We've already made encouraging progress as it relates to PFAS in North Carolina. For years companies have dumped PFAS and other chemicals that last forever into our lakes and rivers, even when they knew that these chemicals damaged people's health and our natural resources well-being. As lawyers for the Department of Environmental Quality my team helped Secretary Regan and Governor Cooper win a milestone settlement with the chemical company Chemours just down the river. In addition to levying a $12 million dollar fine, the largest environmental fine in State history, the settlement prevents the company from continuing to discharge Gen X and other PFAS chemicals into the Cape Fear River, requires the company to install a state-of-the-art technology at the facility to prevent PFAS emissions into the air. The settlement requires the company to contain and clean up the contaminated groundwater at the facility, it requires Chemours to put infiltration systems with people whose private well water has been contaminated. But my office did not stop with that settlement. In October 2020, I announced an additional lawsuit against Chemours and Dupont over (inaudible) manufacturing facility. This lawsuit demands that the companies pay for the damage that they have inflicted on the State's natural resources. Since then, I have filed six additional site-specific lawsuits against Dupont, 3M and 12 other manufacturers of AFFF, a firefighting firm that contains PFAS. These companies need to pay for the damage that they've caused, clean it up and monitor it to make sure that it doesn't cause more damage in the future. (Applause) I will continue to do everything in my power to protect North Carolina's natural resources. Our children and grandchildren deserve clean air, clean water and a healthy climate and I commit to doing my part. It's my pleasure now to bring forward Kevin Ken Cook, excuse me, Ken, President, and co-founder of the Environmental Working Group a nonprofit nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment. Ken. (Applause)

Chair, Environmental Working Group, Ken Cook: Thank you Mr. Attorney General. Thank all of you for this opportunity and thank all of you for this day. For decades the American people have been exposed to incredibly toxic forever chemicals known as PFAS, with no protection from their government, none. Those chemicals now contaminate virtually all Americans from birth, in fact, before birth as our study in 2004 documented, that's because for generations PFAS chemicals slid off every major federal environmental law like a fried egg off a Teflon pan, until Joe Biden came along (applause) until Joe Biden came along. Now we're making progress and we can't go back; we can't go back. In just the last few years for the first time most of those environmental laws are starting to stick to forever chemicals. How about that, right, and (inaudible) announces the biggest step yet a tough landmark legal limit on PFAS in the drinking water of tens of millions of Americans (applause) unprecedented progress, we can't go back, we can't. Do you remember the 72-page PFAS Action Plan that was released by the previous Administration? Of course, you don’t. It was a plan for inaction, a plan to delay or weaken the very policies the Biden Administration has already implemented. We can't go back; we can't go back to the kind of leadership that would take us back like the EPA Administrator we had seven years ago. Do you remember him? Let me remind you a little bit about him, he was the guy who asked EPA civil servants to help him procure a lightly used mattress from the Trump Hotel. In the record, the EPA Administrator who directed his security detail to track down his favorite moisturizer, available only at select Ritz Carlton hotels, his security detail, okay. The guy who spent $43,000 of taxpayer money improperly on a soundproof booth in his office so EPA staff couldn't hear what he was saying or who he was saying it to, kind of a little safe room to escape career scientists and lawyers who thought EPA was here to protect human health and the environment as Congress intended, that's what they thought. The very people Michael Regan gathered around to make PFAS a priority of his entire Agency to make sure today's announcement happened and happened by the book and was as bulletproof as possible to keep toxic PFAS out of our people and out of our babies. (Applause) Now here we are three plus years into his tenure, he's taking on PFAS pollution from every angle and yet the American people have no idea which moisturizer he prefers, we don't know, it doesn't even come up, that's progress, we can't go back. We can't go back to week after week of infrastructure week, can we? No, we don't get infrastructure week with Joe Biden, we get infrastructure, money, concrete, trucks, equipment jobs, not announcements. Like the ten billion dollars in the Bipartisan Biden Infrastructure Law earmarked to deal with PFAS in our water supplies and the one billion dollars announced today to help water utilities meet this tough new standard. Real money, real infrastructure. This is infrastructure, this is what it looks like, you got to build it and you got to pay for it. So, is it enough to do the job? No, of course not. Where will we get the rest? Well, me, I would start with the guy who got us the first ten billion. Next month marks the beginning of the environmental working group's focus on forever chemicals 25 years ago. We just turned 31 as you can probably tell. The reason we started and in a real sense the reason we're all here today is because one man stood up to a multi-billion-dollar company slog through decades of government neglect and pull back the curtains on the global crisis of PFAS contamination. That man is Rob Black, he's right back there. (Applause) Administrator Regan, CEQ Chair Mallory, thank you for inviting me to this historic occasion. If an organization can be considered to have a life's work, PFAS is surely it for my organization environmental working group. And this is the best PFAS day that I've had in a quarter century. Thank you for your courage and your persistence and your (inaudible) You’ve set us on the right course at long last. I know you'll stay the course because we can't go back. (Applause)(inaudible)

Brenda Mallory: Good afternoon, everyone, oh actually morning, we're still in the morning, thank you. I said yesterday to Ken that he always gets the room fired up and he didn't disappoint today as well so thank you Ken Cook for the introduction and for all that the environmental working group has done and for your support of the efforts of today's announcement. It could not happen without people like you and without the courage that it took to continue to push this issue and for the EPA and staff to actually move forward on what was clearly a needed action. It's really a pleasure to be here in Fayetteville with the Administrator and to mark a critical step toward delivering clean and safe water to communities in North Carolina and all across the country. Administrator Regan and the team have actually done an incredible job in getting us to this moment and don't think that that was an easy task. But I'm really excited to be part of this significant public health announcement and want to begin by thanking Governor Cooper, Mayor Colvin, and other partners here in North Carolina. I also want to give special thanks to Emily Donovan from Clean Cape Fear who has secured reverse osmosis filling stations (applause) for dozens of local public schools and helped to elevate North Carolina's PFAS contamination issues to a national stage. President Biden and Vice President Harris believe everyone deserves access to clean and safe water. Everyone should be able to turn on the tap and know that the glass of water they fill is safe to drink and free of pollutants that harm people's health and well-being. That's why President Biden has launched a government-wide action plan and provided billions of dollars in funding to protect communities from PFAS pollution. Today the Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the first national drinking water standard for PFAS which will protect 100 million people from PFAS exposure, prevent tens of thousands of serious illnesses and save lives. We are also announcing $1 billion dollars through the President’s Investing in America Agenda to help every state and territory fund PFAS treatment systems to meet the standards. (Applause) This funding is part of $9 billion dollars through the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water, the largest investment in tackling PFAS pollution. The Investments build on President Biden's action plan to address PFAS pollution, safeguard public health and advance environmental justice. The Biden cancer moonshot goal of cutting the cancer death rates by at least half by 2047. Administrator Regan will go in more detail about the announcement but first I'd like to just take a step back and share what this announcement really means. In Oakdale Minnesota a chemical plant dumped PFAS containing waste for decades, contaminating the community's drinking water. Cancer was found to be a far more likely cause of death in children in Oakdale than in neighboring communities. The importance of this issue for children, families and communities goes far beyond what any numbers can get. I want to highlight the personal story of Amara Strande who spent her final months calling for action after years of battling tumors and more than 20 surgeries, Amara passed away one year ago this month just before her 21st birthday. Today's action is a critical step in striving to ensure that no child or community, no family, no parent experiences the devastation that Oakdale has seen. The First National Water Standard for PFAS marks a significant step towards delivering on the Biden Harris Administration's commitment to securing clean water for people all across this nation and with that I will turn it over to Governor Cooper.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper: Well good morning, everybody. It is fantastic to be in Fayetteville in Cumberland County. Ken and Brenda and Attorney General Stein thank you for all that you are doing for clean water for families. I know that these local governments led by Mayor Colvin and Chair Adams and all of the members of the City Council and County Commissioners know firsthand how important this issue is because they've had people affected in this community by this and so a lot of them are here today and we're grateful for their leadership. Always glad to be with Senator Applewhite, Representative Jackson, Representative Pricey Harrison grateful for their leadership in the North Carolina General Assembly. Also, at our Department of Environmental Quality that our EPA Administrator left in great shape, Secretary Biser couldn't be with us today because she's in Washington doing good work. But we have our Chief Deputy Secretary of DEQ Tim Watkins and our Assistant Secretary for Environment Sushma Masemore who have done tremendous work in this area. Look let's get to the bottom line first here, families and communities deserve clean safe drinking water period (applause), and we know that these forever chemicals PFAS often called Gen X they threaten it now. When I became Governor, we'd already been reading these reports of the Pioneers on this issue who began to realize what a problem it was, and our scientists and health officials were becoming concerned about these forever chemicals and they didn't know for sure how they affected people's health and they didn't know for sure what levels were safe in the drinking water. In North Carolina we did not wait, we went to work and one of the reasons why Administrator Regan is here, this is his home state and loves it very much, but he knows that with his leadership with our team that we were on the cutting edge on this issue in North Carolina. In fact, when I was interviewing Secretary Regan for this job, some people had told me he's too young to lead the Department of Environmental Quality I asked him that question Michael, they say you too young. He said, well Governor I'm working on it every day. That's the guy you need right? And when President Biden was talking with me about a leader that he needed to be Administrator of the EPA one of the toughest jobs in Washington I looked at what the EPA had gone through under the previous Administrator, that Ken had just talked about and the previous President and I thought about our Department of Environmental Quality that had gone through a gutting from the majority Republican legislature and my predecessor as Governor and I said Michael Regan helped to turn DEQ around and raised the confidence level and gave everybody purpose and he can do the same thing for the EPA in Washington and he has done that and I'm grateful that you are here. But in 2017 we went to work, we set up our Secretary’s Advisory Board to begin digging into what we could do to protect North Carolina communities and it started out with our department of our Environmental Quality we realize there was a real Health aspect here too so we brought in the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and we brought all these people together working on what we could do. Our DEQ worked to find the source of the Gen X and the Cape Fear River, and we took that polluter Chemours to court and to this day, accountable for what they've done. We rolled out an action strategy to help protect communities and their drinking water and to clean up existing contamination and we proposed legislation to the General Assembly to hold polluters accountable and to make them clean up their own mess. And we ask the General Assembly for additional resources to fight this battle. North Carolina has led the way across the country in fighting this challenge, but we knew we needed help. How can you adequately prevent the threat if you don't have a measurable standard that can be enforced. How will our communities be able to afford the changes that are going to be required in their water systems, the filtration, how they going to be able to afford it? Administrator Regan and the Biden Administration is here to provide the to help in tackling this complex issue. I had a phone call very early in my first term with the previous Administrator of the EPA and didn't ask him any of the questions that you talked about, but I did talk to him about PFAS and when I hung up the phone and looked at the people who were around me listening to the call, we aren't going to get any help here. The previous Administration and President Trump really weren't interested in helping on this issue but thankfully when they got into office the Biden Administration was. And you remember three years ago we joined together with the Biden Administration at North Carolina State as we rolled out the EPA's road map to tackle this contamination issue. That road map was a road map that North Carolina had already started. And it made a big promise that for the first time ever we would set a national limit on PFAS in drinking water and that the Biden Administration would do that. Today Administrator Regan and the Biden Administration are delivering on that promise that they made not only to North Carolinians but to all Americans across this country (applause) today our calls have been answered. These new standards will help give people the confidence they deserve when they turn on the tap. That their water is safe and clean. And here in North Carolina we've already been preparing for this day our Department of Environmental Quality is partnering with our local water systems getting ready, taking hundreds of samples of water, providing technical assistance, we're proposing PFAS limits for surface and groundwater but we know that with all this our water systems will need a lot more help and funding to reduce PFAS in drinking water and get everybody to that safe level. And the Biden Administration is answering that call with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and we're going to work to get as much of it as we can. Administrator Regan here in North Carolina (applause) but I know these legislators are with me who are here today, we need to get the legislature to still that requires polluters to pay because it shouldn't need the taxpayers and the consumers to pay, they should be paid for the damage that they cause. And we know that the Biden Administration agrees with us on this as they are working to include PFAS as a hazardous substance under federal law that can trigger requirements for polluters to pay for treatment and Cleanup. Folks we still have a long way to go but we have to work every day and today is a significant step toward cleaner and safer water for all Americans. And now thank you very much for that and thank you to Emily Donovan and her work as co-founder of the Clean Cape Fear and I'm going to introduce you right now, Emily. (Applause)

Emily Donovan: So, my family didn’t know about the extreme levels of Gen X and other PFAS in our tap water until six years ago. At that time there was one statement we kept hearing over and over again from leaders, our tap water meets or exceeds state and federal guidelines, but we knew those words were worthless because there were no state and federal drinking water standards for PFAS. In June of 2017 (inaudible) about Chemours the company sent their executives to Wilmington North Carolina, first (inaudible) meeting with local leaders. Only one reporter, Adam, was allowed in the room, sorry he's here today, right there (inaudible) was allowed in the room with no cameras (inaudible) knew our contamination crisis was bigger than we ever imagined, and we quickly formed clean Cape Fear and we co-hosted the first ever town hall on Gen X with our friends Cape Fear River Watch Dana Sergeant. Our public trust was severely broken when we realized what Dupont did in Parkersburg West Virginia was exactly the same thing that they were doing in North Carolina for nearly 40 years. I raised my children on this water. A 130,000 parts per trillion total (inaudible) is the current estimate (inaudible) that we likely drank (inaudible) the peak of our contamination crisis. My daughter is here today with her friends, they were raised on that water. And thank you (inaudible) and your (inaudible) and special shout out to Harper Peterson for forming Clean Cape Fear around his dinner room table. In the last few years. Clean Cape Fear has lost four friends that lent their voices to our fight. All of them were my age. They died of either rare or recurrent cancers or chronic health problems that are too great to overcome. John (inaudible) is here today because her husband can't be. My own husband developed a brain tumor three years after we moved to this region. My family and I have Chemours’s specific PFAS in our blood and no one can tell us or our doctors what health risks are associated with those exposures or how to provide us with preventative care, this has been our reality, not just mine, Mike Waters is here today, his friends are here today, I know we can't change the past, but we can fight for a more just future and that is exactly what we are doing today. For every Dupont and Chemours in the world there is an EWG, an NRDC, an Earth Justice, a Center for Environmental Health and a North Carolina Conservation Network and countless other state and national organizations that are fighting alongside us. Today because of people like Rob Black, (inaudible) Fox, Mark Strainer, and a whole committed scientific community that's willing to spend their nights and weekends doing what is right, instead of what is easy. We are also here today because of grassroots community leaders like Katie Bryant from Pittsboro and Cheryl, Acting Chief of the Waccamaw Indian people, (applause) Hope, Joanne, Laureen, Tony, Ernie, Jessup, Linda, Brenda, Stelle, Sandy Dana, Aisha, Jamie and (inaudible) who likes to say (inaudible) that is PFAS we are the National PFAS contamination community, and we stand united. We go to DC regularly fighting for these rules, fighting for these changes and I am so grateful that you listened to us Mr. Administrator Regan. We've been fighting for years, some for a decade, to make sure no one else has to live through the traumas that we have endured. But most importantly we are here today witnessing history because of the leadership of our next speaker. I first met Administrator Regan six years ago when he was Secretary of North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality. He had only been in that role for three months when we publicly learned about Gen X and Chemours and it's been a roller coaster of a journey ever since. Today I am overwhelmed with gratitude, and I am so deeply honored to be in this moment knowing that the next time I hear the words, meets, or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards, that those words will actually mean something. So it is with great honor that North Carolina's favorite son and NC State graduate, buildings need to be named after you friend. Our next speaker U.S. EPA Administrator Michael Regan. (Applause)

Administrator Michael Regan: Good morning. I have to thank Emily for that introduction. Emily, we have come a long way. Yes, I remember those early years and I want to say thank you for your leadership and for your bold advocacy, not just for your community but for communities all across this country. So, thank you. To my good friend Roy Cooper yes, I think Governor Cooper walked you through the history, and what I want to say about Governor Cooper is I'm not just proud of Governor Cooper's leadership for the state of North Carolina, at the time Governor Cooper was setting the example for the nation. I think you all heard that during the previous Administration it wasn't because the career officials did not have the will. It was the political leadership that didn't have the will. So, Governors like Roy Cooper took the wheel and started driving this topic for the nation. So, Governor thank you for that leadership. And it takes a team to do this, and the Governor had a very strong partner in a very aggressive Attorney General Josh Stein, thank you. Josh's bold leadership and the career staff at NCDJ really took the helm and helped our Agency at the time navigate some very tough terrain and I think Josh laid it out the accountability that we laid out for the state of North Carolina, so Josh again thank you for your leadership. To my good friend Brenda Mallory, Chair of the White House Council on Environment Quality, Brenda's expertise has come in very handy. Brenda has expertise in water quality beyond some of these persistent forever chemicals. She has been an excellent partner in representing the White House as we have designed this regulation, so Brenda thank you so much for being here. Mayor Colvin we've been here before, yes, it's good to make this progress and you know Mayor while we've been at this for a while, I can say that your leadership has never wavered. We greatly appreciate you for hosting us today and greatly appreciate Commissioner Adams as well. I think this County and this city has been well served so thank you sir. And then for those of you who didn't know Ken Cook, you know him now. Ken has been an excellent partner to this Administration holding us accountable but also helping us navigate our practical solutions for a problem that has been persisting for too long, so Ken thank you and thank you for leading EWG and thank you for the commitment and the passion that you all have on this topic. And then I want to thank EPA staff again. I want to reiterate that while we all recognize that the previous Administration did not have the political will, the expertise was there. The expertise is there, and we are here today because those career staff never told me know on day one, we gave them the assignment and they have delivered so thank you to my EPA staff. Now folks I'm proud to work for a President that understands the threat of PFAS, and he understands that because on day one he launched a whole of government approach to begin to address this issue. We could not be here but for the will and the vision of President Biden. I'm thankful to work for a leader who understands and sees people and will not leave any communities behind. In North Carolina we've proven time and time again that the best way to create strong durable policy is to bring all stakeholders to the table, regardless of the political party or background together examine all of the issues from all sides and form a common solution. This has been my perspective as EPA Administrator in Washington DC, but it was also my perspective when Governor Cooper appointed me as Secretary of North Carolina DEQ back in 2017. As Secretary back then we faced a lot of obstacles. Challenges like the impacts of floods and hurricanes resulting from climate change, tackling environmental justice, and cleaning up coal ash just to name a few. But by far one of the most difficult challenges was discovering the presence of forever chemicals in our soil and our air and our water. For me personally this battle started right here in Fayetteville North Carolina. We learned that for decades Chemours have been dumping forever chemicals into our precious Cape Fear River, saturating our soils and spewing emissions into the air for miles and miles and miles. And while there is no doubt that these chemicals have a place and are important for certain industries and certain practices, there is also no doubt that these chemicals entering our environment in an uncontrolled manner are harmful to our families, harmful to our communities and harmful to our economy. We've all heard from parents like Emily Donovan who had no idea that the water she was giving her children since birth was contaminated with PFAS. I've also heard from parents like Andrea Amoco whose family moved to Portsmouth New Hampshire in 2007 and like any parent Andrea enrolled her small kids into a daycare after the move. Seven years later she would find out that her kids were drinking contaminated water. Folks I want to be clear as a parent and clear as EPA Administrator, there is no greater priority for me than protecting our children (applause) so from day one, under the leadership of President Biden, we set up a group of senior EPA career officials across multiple offices to develop a multi-year PFAS strategy to begin tackling this persistent problem, this persistent threat to the American people. In October of 2021 we announced the PFAS Strategic Road Map guided by President Biden's whole of government call to tackle PFAS pollution and deliver clean water for all and in the years since we have accelerated our progress to protect communities. We're holding polluters accountable; we're advancing the science around PFAS and we're listening to and learning from the very communities that have had to face the fears of contamination. Now just a year ago I stood in Wilmington North Carolina just downstream of this community that we're in today to announce EPA's proposed national Drinking Water Standard for PFAS and today I am back to finish the assignment. (Applause) You know today I'm proud to return to North Carolina to announce the first ever Nationwide legally enforceable drinking water standard for PFAS, the most significant action EPA has ever taken on this on this chemical PFAS. This new standard will reduce past exposure for approximately 100 million people. And I want to say it again as we throw numbers around, 100 million people. It will prevent thousands of deaths, reduce tens of thousands of serious illnesses, not just in North Carolina but all across the country. And folks I want to be clear on something else PFAS doesn't care what your politics are, doesn't care where you live, doesn't care how much money you have in your pocket, when it comes to the basic needs of clean drinking water no matter what your political party is, or whether you live in the south on the West Coast or the Midwest everyone should be able to turn on their tap and trust that the water that they're drinking sir and giving their children is safe. So, I'm proud to say that this rule is the result of a collective bipartisan effort with all sides united fighting to find a common solution to the threat of PFAS contamination. It's the result of Governors across the country like Roy Cooper, Phil Scott, Michelle Luhan Grisham, and Gretchen Whitman, Attorneys Generals like Josh Stein, Michelle Henry of Pennsylvania, Tim Griffin of Arkansas, and Chris Mays of Arizona. It's the result of my partners in Congress like Senator Tom Tillis, Congressman Hudson, Senator Carper who came together to protect the health of all communities across the country. And it's the result of community advocates like Emily Donovan, Hope Gross of Pennsylvania, Sandy (inaudible) of Michigan who pushed for stricter PFAS standards in drinking water for years while also facing difficult health challenges of their own from exposure or caring for loved ones who've been exposed. And folks you're going to hear people talk about (inaudible) and it can't be done, and we shouldn't do this, let me just tell you it can be done it can be achieved using a range of technologies and approaches that many water systems are using today. And this water treatment facility right here has been on the front lines of finding ways to reduce PFAS exposure and cities like Fayetteville are showing that together we can get the job done. But President Biden also recognizes as you've heard that some water systems need help. That's why alongside today's announcement, we are announcing one billion dollars in funding for states and territories to conduct initial testing and treatment at public water systems and homes served by privately owned wells. (Applause) Now I'm going to throw a few numbers around because that's one billion dollars that's a part of a larger nine-billion-dollar package, that's a part of a larger 20-dollar billion package to begin to tackle these pervasive chemicals. With today's actions we’re one huge step closer to finally shutting off the tap on forever chemicals and I promise that everything that this Agency does to implement the standard will be done putting people first. You will never have to wonder who the Biden Administration is working for. We're working for you, we're working for your children, we're working for your neighbors and we're working for you. President Biden and Vice President Harris and this EPA will continue fighting until all people every single person in this country has clean air to breathe clean water to drink and the opportunity to live a healthy and prosperous life. Thank you all. (Applause) And with that I'll invite the (inaudible) and we'll take a few questions from the Press.

Unidentified Speaker: Go ahead and right…(inaudible)

Administrator Michael Regan: Yes, we have a prioritized list and you'll be able to visit us on epa.gov to take a look at how the money will exactly be distributed but it's going to be based on need. And all of the money that is coming from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act prioritizes communities that have been disproportionately impacted first so those who have never had seat at the table finally have a seat at the table with this Administration. (inaudible)

Administrator Michael Regan: I agree with those who say we should be stopping at the source and that's exactly what we're doing at the federal level and it's what we're doing at the state level. I think you heard the Governor, Attorney General Stein and myself say that we're holding polluters accountable. The taxpayers should not have to pick up the tab solely. And so, as you see national news around big settlements from these companies that have been caught with their hand in the cookie jar, you're starting to see that we're producing the science, we're producing the road map for these health standards and it's time for companies to pay. (inaudible)

Administrator Michael Regan: We're starting with this six because with this six we have the best science and data to design these health standards. I think you might know that everyone is not in agreement with us regulating this, the temperature of the courts these days. So what EPA is doing is we're measuring twice and we're cutting once this is the first of six and we're going to continue until we get to all of them. (inaudible)

Administrator Michael Regan: Well, you know what we're going to do is we're going to provide technical assistance to all of our utilities across the country. What we have to really take into account is most utilities or a lot of utilities like this one here today are already taking action. This rule that we are announcing today we expect that maybe 6% of utilities across the country may not be in compliance so we're going to target them first. We're going to provide technical assistance; we're going to try to make sure that these one billion dollars that's a part of this $9 billion dollars is focused and trained on those facilities. Listen we don't want to leave anyone behind. We do recognize that some facilities would need help and President Biden has created a situation where not only can we provide resources and investment, but EPA also has the technical assistance to go along with that (inaudible)

Unidentified Speaker: I think it's our intention to provide Surface Water Standards for North Carolina. It was important for us for the federal government to come forward with this standard but we're working now. We're providing technical assistance. We're going to continue to ask the General Assembly for more funding and I think it's important that we are comprehensive about this. So, we look forward to establishing those standards as well. Anybody else?

(Reporter Question) What kind moisturizer do you use? (Applause)

Unidentified Speaker: We don't know, we don't know, we have filed Freedom of Information Act requests and we still don’t know. Thank you all. I really appreciate you being here.