

# Citizen Resolution # 160522

(For Hearing Officer completion)



## Biosolids Testing & Initiatives

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of over 4,000 “forever chemicals” that are used in a wide variety of consumer products from water repellants, non-stick pans, stain resistant materials, cosmetics, fire-fighting foams, fast food wrappers and paper production. In Wisconsin and in many states biosolids or wastewater sludge are commonly applied to farm fields as a substitute for fertilizer. Research indicates biosolids may contain high concentrations of PFAS. Studies have shown that PFAS concentrations in soil indicate a direct correlation between bioaccumulation in plants after application. As a potential contamination source for soil, groundwater, and crops for human consumption, the citizens of Wisconsin need to be assured that the wild game, fish, and domestic animals Wisconsin residents consume are safe to eat. Smelt consumption from Lake Superior have been restricted to an 8 oz portion per month for adults by the state of Michigan due to PFAS contamination. In December 2020, the Wisconsin DNR released the PFAS Action Plan. According to this plan, it has been discovered that PFAS substances bioaccumulate in the human body and studies have found that 98% of Americans have measurable levels of PFAS in their blood. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), certain PFAS substances pose a number of risks to human health, including developmental problems in fetuses and infants, certain types of cancer, reduced antibody response, decreased immune response to vaccinations, and kidney disease. The PFAS Action Plan includes 8 different action recommendations including Standard Setting, Sampling, and Pollution Prevention. In February 2022, the NRB voted to approve a drinking water standard of 70 parts per trillion (PPT), while the DNR had proposed 20 PPT as part of the action plan and as recommended by the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services.

### **Should WI adopt more restrictive standards for PFAS levels? Should the Wisconsin Conservation Congress take a position supporting the December 2020 PFAS Action Plan?**

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/25/pfas-us-drinking-water-wells-study>

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.