Dear Chairs Merkley and Pingree, Ranking Members Murkowski and Joyce:

I write today in strong support of increased funds for Environment Protection Agency (EPA)’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)’s fifth round (UCMR 5) to ensure equitable protection of safe drinking water in small, rural, and often disadvantaged communities.

The American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) is a trade association representing independent, commercial scientific and engineering firms with over 1,000 facilities in the United States engaged in testing, product certification, consulting, and research and development to enhance public health and safety. ACIL’s environmental laboratory members test water, air, soil and other environmental media for a variety of environmental contaminants and represent 80% of our nation’s environmental compliance testing capacity.

ACIL strongly supports the continued investigation of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS), particularly the impact of PFAS contamination on the nation’s drinking water supply. UCMR 5 includes data collection on the occurrence of 30 contaminant candidates, 29 of which belong to the PFAS family of compounds. Small, disadvantaged water systems rely upon EPA funding for UCMR testing and data collection. ACIL requests this increased funding to enable EPA to monitor all small systems for possible drinking water contamination by PFAS rather than a smaller subset of systems.

PFAS is a broad and complex group of chemicals that deserve a thorough, peer-reviewed scientific evaluation. The UCMR 5 provides the opportunity to add significant data to that effort. Congress should provide the resources necessary to establish the extent of PFAS human health risk in the nation’s water supply, including small, rural populations.

With the above-mentioned in mind, I respectfully request that you consider the increased funding of EPA’s UCMR 5. Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter and request. I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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