

**PRESS RELEASE**

**US EPA TAKING IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD TO PROVIDE POWERFUL TOOL FOR HOLDING PFAS MANUFACTURERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WIDESPREAD “FOREVER CHEMICALS” CONTAMINATION**

CINCINNATI, OHIO : US attorney, author, and advocate, Rob Bilott, is acknowledging the significance of US EPA’s proposed designation today of PFOA and PFOS as “hazardous substances” under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (“CERCLA”), also known as the federal Superfund law. Bilott, a partner in the Cincinnati Ohio and Northern Kentucky offices of the law firm, Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP, stated: “US EPA’s proposal to designate these two particular ‘forever chemicals’ as ‘hazardous substances’ under the federal Superfund law sends a loud and clear message to the entire world that that United States is finally acknowledging and accepting the now overwhelming evidence that these man-made poisons present substantial danger to the public health and the environment.” Bilott added, “It took over two decades to get here, but the scientific facts and truth about the health threat posed by these PFAS “forever chemicals” have finally prevailed over the misinformation campaigns and corporate cover ups designed to mislead the public and delay action.” According to Bilott, EPA’s action “follows on the heels of the recently-released report from the National Academies of Science that acknowledged the serious threat these chemicals pose to the health of virtually everyone in this country – and worldwide, even at the levels currently found in the blood of the general population, and a recent study linking *millions* of deaths to PFAS exposures since 1999.”

Bilott, who helped first uncover the widespread presence of these PFAS “forever chemicals” in environmental media and human blood through litigation that began in 1998 and

was recently chronicled in his book, *“Exposure”* and the Hollywood film, *“Dark Waters,”* starring Mark Ruffalo as Bilott, cautions that it is important that any CERCLA Superfund “hazardous substance” designations be used and implemented in such a way as to insure that the costs of cleaning up these toxins are borne by those PFAS manufacturers who actually caused this contamination in the first place – not those who may be innocent victims stuck with their wastes: “These are completely man-made toxins. We know who made them and pumped them out into our environment for decades, making billions of dollars of profits, all while exposing all of us to their ill effects and attempting to cover up the facts. We should be careful when addressing these PFAS ‘forever chemicals’ to make sure the truly responsible parties are the ones required to pay the costs of addressing this massive contamination problem - *not* the innocent victims of this pollution who didn’t create the toxins and were never warned any of this was ever happening.” Bilott currently represents various states, water providers, and others damaged by PFAS water contamination all over the country and serves as national plaintiffs’ Advisory Counsel in multi-district litigation pending in federal court in South Carolina where thousands of cases have been consolidated that involve damages allegedly attributable to PFAS in certain fire-fighting foams. Bilott is also a 2017 recipient of the “Right Livelihood Award” (also known as the “Alternative Nobel prize) for his decades of work on PFAS issues, is on the Boards of Less Cancer and Green Umbrella, and is a Lecturer at the Yale School Of Public Health.