

PRESS RELEASE
**US EPA TAKING HUGE STEP FORWARD TO PROTECT AMERICAN DRINKING
WATER FROM TOXIC PFAS “FOREVER CHEMICALS”**

CINCINNATI, OH: US attorney, author, and advocate, Rob Bilott, is praising the announcement today by the US EPA that it is proposing maximum contaminant levels (“MCLs”) for certain toxic PFAS “forever chemicals” under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Bilott, a partner in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky offices of the law firm, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, stated: “Today we can celebrate a huge victory for public health in this country – US EPA is finally moving forward to protect drinking water across the United States by proposing federally-enforceable limits on some of the most toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative chemicals ever found in our nation’s drinking water supply.” Bilott added: “It has taken *far* too long to get to this point, but the scientific facts and truth about the health threat posed by these man-made poisons have finally prevailed over the decades of corporate cover-ups and misinformation campaigns designed to mislead the public and delay action.”

According to Bilott, who first alerted US EPA to the presence of PFAS in US drinking water supplies and asked the Agency to take steps to address the problem in March of 2001, “release of these proposed new standards makes it even more critical that US EPA help the innocent victims of this contamination, including drinking water providers all across the country and their hundreds of millions of impacted customers, to hold the companies that created these man-made toxins responsible for the costs of addressing the damage they caused.” Bilott added, “we know which companies created these poisons and made billions of dollars in profits pumping them into our world for decades without warning any of us of the threats they posed to human health and our environment. We should not allow these same companies to now push onto all of us the costs of cleaning up their mess.”

Bilott currently represents various states, water providers, and others across the country who have been damaged by PFAS contamination, and serves as national plaintiffs’ Advisory Counsel in multi-district litigation pending in South Carolina federal court where thousands of cases have been consolidated dealing with harm attributable to PFAS in certain firefighting foams. In 2017, Rob received

the Right Livelihood Award (known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize”) for his decades of work uncovering the threat posed by PFAS “forever chemicals.” This work is detailed in Bilott’s book, *Exposure: Poisoned Water, Corporate Greed, and One Lawyer’s Twenty-Year Battle Against DuPont*, which story formed the basis of the 2019 film, *Dark Waters* (starring Mark Ruffalo as Bilott), and was featured in the 2018 documentary, *The Devil We Know*. Rob is also a Lecturer at the Yale School of Public health and serves on the Boards of Less Cancer and Green Umbrella.