

PRESS RELEASE

US TAKES HISTORIC 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 that the US EPA has enacted federally-enforceable drinking water limits 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 — the US EPA is moving forward to protect drinking water across the United States by adopting federally-enforceable limits on some of the most toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative chemicals ever found in our nation's drinking water supply." Bilott added: "Today's action by EPA is the culmination of *decades* of work to raise awareness of the global threat to human health and the environment presented by these man-made 'forever chemicals.' Today we can celebrate that the scientific facts and truth about the dangers posed by these toxins have finally prevailed over the decades of corporate cover-ups and misinformation campaigns designed to mislead and to delay action to protect public health."

According to Bilott: "I first alerted US EPA and our federal government to the presence of PFAS in US drinking water supplies, and asked that immediate steps to address the problem in a letter dated March 6, 2001 – *more than twenty-three years ago*. It should never have taken this long to address such serious threats to public health and our environment. But the PFAS story has helped highlight the critical importance of making sure that complete scientific information is promptly disclosed and made available to our regulatory authorities, lawmakers, the scientific

community, and the public, and not manipulated and distorted by those hoping to profit from hiding the truth.”

Bilott currently represents states, water providers, and others all across the country who have been damaged by PFAS contamination, and serves as 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, and where over \$13 billion in settlements with 3M and DuPont-related companies have been approved for US public drinking water providers. With regard to that litigation, Bilott stated: “We have worked for many years to make sure that the companies actually responsible for contaminating our country’s drinking water with PFAS are held responsible for the costs to address that contamination – not the victims. Now that our litigation has secured the largest drinking water settlements in US history that will make billions of dollars available to our nation’s drinking water providers to address the PFAS problem, it is critically important that we allow implementation of those settlements to move forward without delay.”

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*, the 2023 documentary, *Burned: Protecting the Protectors*, and the upcoming new Australian documentary, *Revealed: How To Poison A Planet*. Rob is also a Lecturer at the Yale School of Public health and serves on the Boards of Less Cancer and Green Umbrella.