

**CHELtenham TOWNSHIP  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 37-18**

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL  
NO. 705 SESSION OF 2017 SPONSORED BY STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS P. MURT AND CO-  
SPONSORED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE  
MCCARTER, REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MARCH  
3, 2017, UPDATING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR  
DRINKING WATER**

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**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), through legislation, has the authority in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to set many environmental standards. One such area of responsibility is the establishment of the acceptable standards of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in our drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, at present the recommended health advisory levels of PFOA and PFOS in Commonwealth drinking water are set at 70 parts per trillion (ppt), in line with the EPA's established health advisory level. Many new questions have arisen as to what an acceptable benchmark of PFOA and PFOS should be. These standards may be set by each state's legislature and vary widely, for example: our neighbor, New Jersey, currently has a standard of 40 ppt, while Vermont has a standard of 100 ppt; and

**WHEREAS**, measurements of PFOA and PFOS have spiked in Eastern Montgomery County where contamination of public and private wells has occurred. This contamination is a result of PFOA and PFOS chemicals used by U.S. Navy personnel at the Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, by Pennsylvania Air National Guard personnel at Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and U.S. Navy personnel at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster. These chemicals are found in the fire suppression foam used by firefighters at the bases in training or in extinguishing fires. These chemicals have now leached into local water supplies causing great alarm to local residents. These are legitimate and reasonable concerns regarding this contamination as well as what the acceptable levels of PFOA and PFOS should be; and

**WHEREAS**, a great deal of research exists which suggests that higher levels of PFOA and PFOS contamination can have negative consequences upon public health and safety. According to an assessment by the Environmental Directorate of the Organization of Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), "PFOS is persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic to

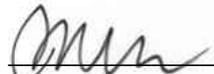
mammalian species” and its half-life in humans is years. In June 2015, researchers Philippe Grandjean of the Harvard School of Public Health, and Richard Clapp of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, concluded that a safe level of PFOA in drinking water would be approximately 1 ppt. The evidence indicates that PFOS and PFOA are carcinogens and immunotoxins. Existing standards are based largely on outdated research and an assumption of short-term exposure. State-of-the-art-technology in the form of in-plant filtration and the use of special granulated carbon filters on wells can achieve the goals of lowering the levels of PFOA and PFOS levels in drinking water in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County hereby proclaim its support of House Bill No. 705 Session of 2017 and urge the State Legislature to adopt legislation that lowers the acceptable levels of PFOA and PFOS in our drinking water in Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 70 ppt to 5 ppt. This action will provide a higher level of protection for our constituents and will enhance public health and safety across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of **August 2018**.

**ATTEST:**

**TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



**Bryan T. Havir**  
*Township Manager and Secretary*

By: 

**Daniel B. Norris, President**