

**Testimony of William Bailey**  
**Before the**  
**Environment Subcommittee**  
**Of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform**  
**On**  
**The Devil They Knew - PFAS**  
**Contamination and the Need for**  
**Corporate Accountability**  
**July 24, 2019**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is William Bailey and I here today to share the effect that the widespread industrial contamination has had on my family and myself.

I was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia in early 1981 with numerous birth defects. I only had one nostril, a keyhole pupil, and a serrated eye lid all on my right side. I struggled to breath normally immediately after birth and the doctors told my family it was likely I wouldn't make it through the night.

My mother who was in shock at the time of my birth had no idea what could have caused my birth defects. While pregnant, she was a full-time employee of Dupont at the Washington Works plant in Parkersburg, WV. Her role at the Dupont plant was to control the production of the Teflon chemical PFOA or C-8 in a confined area: keeping the bubbling chemicals under control and pushing excess chemicals, in her words, "out back".

After my birth and recovering in the hospital my mother recalls receiving phone calls from Dupont representatives inquiring about my health. Upon returning back to work she found evidence that other pregnant women were removed from the Teflon line. She also found studies from 3M, a former manufacturer of Teflon, which found the same birth defects after being exposed to the chemical. Nevertheless, she was told by Dupont that C8 was not the cause of my birth defects.

After dozens of reconstructive surgeries between the ages two and five, my family moved to Virginia as my parents felt called to start a church in the Northern Virginia area. With no health insurance at that time my parents went to court to demand that Dupont to simply pay for the medical expenses for more reconstructive surgeries. However door after door was closed to us by lawyers who refused to take a cases against a corporate giant like Dupont.

Around the age of 25, I came into contact with Rob Billot and was made aware of the litigation, settlement, and scientific study that was happening. I was so glad to hear this and knew the results of the study would show the disposal and contamination of the water and air would be made known publicly. I was disheartened to find out that some of the sickness and disease my mother was facing was caused by this contamination.

Knowing that other friends and acquaintances who were battling these sicknesses and diseases, including some who had lost their lives, broke my heart. My deformities were not determined to

be a result of the contamination, despite admissions by Dupont scientists stating evidence that C8 could harm fetuses.

Upon further testing, scientists concluded that my children would have a 50% chance of having the same deformities that I had. Being newly wed it nearly destroyed all hopes I had of building a family with my wife. I knew there was no way I could subject my children to the looks and ridicule, years of medical procedures, and other battles that I faced I knew they would encounter. The decision to trust my faith in God took approximately 10 years before my wife and I pursued pregnancy. With my son (now 3 years old) and daughter (now 3 months old) completely whole and healthy, I am so thankful they have been spared the issues I have dealt with my entire life.

However, today I have another reason for trepidation. With my high levels of the C-8 chemical in my blood, will I have to endure kidney cancer, testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, and/or hypercholesterolemia? Will I lose my life to one of these diseases?

As I am honored to testify before this committee, I must express that action is as important as oversight. I am proud to call myself an American, but sad to see our country's disregard for clean water. I feel that, we, more so than any have the means to provide everyone with clean water.

First, PFAS discharges should be subject to the Federal Clean Water Act. Polluters such as Dupont and 3M should not be allowed to simply discharge PFAS into our water supplies, nor should they be able to send their PFAS wastes to public water utilities without treating their pollution first. The pollution must stop! The amendment added by Representative Chris Pappas to the house version of the NDAA, is vital to procurement of clean water.

Second, I strongly support the Capito-Gillibrand amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA, which requires polluters to report these discharges through the federal Toxic Release Inventory.

Third, I believe that polluters like Dupont and 3M should be required to pay their share of the clean up costs. The Dingell-Kildee amendment to the house version of the NDAA would ensure this.

Finally, we need to take further steps in monitoring our water. We must monitor the PFAS levels in our drinking water sources and tap water more now than ever before. Representative Kildee's amendment in the house version of the NDAA is what we need.

I am honored to testify before this committee today and hope that my words will somehow initiate the change to the standards we, as a country, have set to ensure a healthy life. I believe every American and furthermore every human being deserves the right to clean water. Please act on behalf of your fellow Americans and set the example for a better world.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

William Bailey III | Bucky