



9399 W. HIGGINS ROAD  
SUITE 1100  
ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS 60018

TELEPHONE 847-430-2800  
www.culligan.com

September 6, 2018

Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Environment  
United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko:

Thank you for holding a hearing on the important matter of “Perfluorinated Chemicals in the Environment.” Culligan International Company (“Culligan”) is a U.S. company, founded in 1936, that specializes in the manufacture and distribution of water filtration and treatment systems. I write to emphasize the critical role that our water filtration and treatment products play in protecting public health and reducing the presence of harmful chemicals in drinking water. I also want to highlight the risks of recent government policies that have reduced the affordability of these products.

Culligan products reach more than 2 million homes and small businesses across the United States. Our consumer water filtration and treatment products help ensure access to clean, healthy drinking water in homes, and serve a vital public health purpose, particularly as issues with the local municipal water supply arise with greater frequency as U.S. infrastructure ages. Today, individuals and whole communities depend on point-of-use and/or point-of-entry water filtration and purifying treatment technologies to protect public health. Our products substantially reduce the presence of contaminants in the water like lead, chromium-6, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, nitrate, perchlorate, and arsenic.

Our products can help address significant public health crises like that faced by Flint, Michigan in recent years. For example, last year, pollutants were found in the water supply in Plainfield Charter Township, a community outside of Grand Rapids, Michigan.<sup>1</sup> For decades, a local shoemaking company, Wolverine Worldwide, the maker of popular footwear brands like Hush Puppies and Merrell, had been dumping waste from its tannery into the woods and surrounding area, causing the water crisis. Following the discovery of pollutants in the local water supply, contractors showed up to test nearby residents’ wells, many of which were also tainted. Culligan water filtration and treatment products were installed in thousands of homes in the area in order to address the problem and ensure that residents had access to clean, healthy drinking water.

---

<sup>1</sup> Mitch Smith, *Miles from Flint, Residents Turn Off Taps in New Water Crisis*, NY Times (Nov. 24, 2017), <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/24/us/michigan-water-wolverine-contamination.html>.

We are concerned, however, that recent government policies may result in price increases that will put essential water filtration and treatment systems out of reach for many consumers, and thus raise water contamination risks for families and small businesses across the country. In particular, the Office of the United States Trade Representative recently imposed Section 301 tariffs on imports of water filtration products and ion exchange resin from China. These tariffs may increase the price of our water softeners and water filtration products by hundreds of dollars per unit. If USTR does not exclude these products from the Section 301 tariffs, it will be putting our communities at risk. We ask the Subcommittee's support in urging USTR to exclude our products from the tariffs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judd Larned', written in a cursive style.

Judd Larned  
President, North America  
Culligan International Company