NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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NYPIRG STATEMENT ON ANNOUNCED RULEMAKING TO ADOPT DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR PFOA, PFOS, 1,4-DIOXANE

CALL FOR STANDARDS TO BE ADOPTED RAPIDLY AND TO REFLECT LATEST SCIENCE

(*Albany, N.Y.*) Governor Cuomo and the New York State Department of Health announced today that the rulemaking process is underway to adopt drinking water standards for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane. The Health Commissioner is moving forward with levels recommended by the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council at 10 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS and 1 part per billion (ppb) for 1,4-dioxane.

A report from NYPIRG found that drinking water for over 2.8 million New Yorkers have levels of 1,4-dioxane in their drinking water supplies above 0.3 parts per billion, and drinking water for more than 1.4 million New Yorkers contained levels of PFOA/PFOS above 4 parts per trillion.

A report issued by the Natural Resource Defense Council in April 2019 recommended a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of 0ppt for PFOA, PFOS, and a few other PFAS chemicals, and a combined maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 2ppt.

The following statement is attributable to Liz Moran, Environmental Policy Director for NYPIRG:

"Now that the Health Department has made the important first step towards setting drinking water standards for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane, it is critical the Department sets levels that will ensure public health is protected and serve as a model for the nation. The more science that comes out about these chemicals, the clearer it becomes that *there is likely no safe level of exposure*. The department should establish a combined maximum contaminant level of 2ppt for PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS chemicals and a maximum contaminant level of 0.3ppb for 1,4-dioxane. These chemicals have polluted the drinking water supplies serving millions of New Yorkers – setting stringent standards as rapidly as possible is critical to keep people from getting sick and to prevent future drinking water contamination crises."

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