

Voice Your Support of House Budget Amendments #53 and #61



photo courtesy of NASA

Today is **Earth Day**, and let us mark the day by supporting clean drinking water for all in Massachusetts. If you have not yet contacted your State Representative to co-sponsor Amendments #53 and #61 to House Ways and Means FY23 State Budget, please do so **TODAY**, as budget debates begin next week.

Over half a million Massachusetts residents rely on private wells, yet there are no state regulations to ensure that their drinking water is safe from contaminants like PFAS (“forever chemicals”), E. coli, arsenic, and more.

The Final Report of the PFAS Interagency Task Force, released just a few days ago, notes: *“Residents who rely on private wells for drinking water are uniquely vulnerable to PFAS contamination in groundwater. Homeowners may have limited resources to conduct regular PFAS testing and install treatment systems. As a result, they may experience extended exposure to PFAS.”* (p.7)

We need to take action **NOW**. These two amendments, filed by Representative Dan Sena, dramatically improve drinking water protections and financial

assistance for private well owners across the state:

Amendment #53, Private Well Drinking Water Safety Treatment Loans, would expand the existing Septic Repair Loan Program to enable low-income private well owners to access no-/low-interest loans to remediate contaminated private wells.

Amendment #61, Drinking Water Quality For All, would authorize the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to develop evidence-based statewide regulations to ensure that drinking water from private wells is safe from contaminants such as PFAS, E. coli, arsenic, uranium, etc.

Please take action today by doing the following:

- **Call or e-mail your State Representative this week to ask them to cosponsor Amendments #53 and #61. You can use language such as “I am contacting you today as a public health advocate to ask that you co-sponsor Amendment #53, Private Well Drinking Water Safety Treatment Loans, and Amendment #61 Drinking Water Quality For All, both filed by Representative Sena to the House Ways and Means FY23 State Budget to ensure that all Massachusetts residents have access to safe drinking water regardless of where they live or what their financial resources are” and add a few sentences about why you care about clean drinking water and health equity. You can find your State Representative [here](#).**
- **Share this e-mail with your networks and ask 5 close friends or colleagues to take action this week too. Each and every call or e-mail makes a difference.**

Thank you to those who have already contacted their State Representatives!

The Foundation has provided over \$1 million in funding to the [Private Well Program to Protect Public Health](#), led by RCAP Solutions, since 2020.

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