



April 2, 2025

Hello Valued Member,

As stewards of clean, safe drinking water, we share a commitment to the health and well-being of our communities. However, the presence of PFAS in our water systems requires urgent action and collaboration, both as we strive to comply with the MCLs and as we work to keep rates as affordable as possible.

A coalition of public water systems is being formed under the administrative umbrella of NCRWA to advocate for state funding and other incentives to help offset the significant costs of removing PFAS from drinking water. With the EPA's regulations – and in response to resident concerns – we're facing enormous costs on a tight time horizon.

The purpose of the coalition is twofold: 1) to advocate before the NC General Assembly for additional funding; and 2) to explore alternative methods to lessen the impact of ongoing O&M costs associated with PFAS treatment. While there are budget pressures, especially in the wake of Hurricane Helene, and we can't guarantee an outcome, we believe it's essential to ensure our voices are heard and work with leaders on both sides of the aisle to help them understand the importance of supporting our communities.

A unified coalition sends a powerful message to state leaders about the critical need for funding assistance. Advocacy for funding is essential to ensure that the burden of these costs does not fall disproportionately on utilities or ratepayers.

Biser Strategies LLC, led by former DEQ Secretary Elizabeth Biser and her colleague, Shrikar Nunna (former Legislative Director for DEQ), will be leading our advocacy efforts. More information can be found at <https://biserstrategies.com>.

We invite you to join this coalition to make a meaningful impact on behalf of our communities. The coalition currently consists of the following systems, and we would welcome additional partners.

- Brunswick County
- Burlington
- CFPUA
- Fayetteville PWC
- Greensboro
- High Point
- Liberty
- Maysville
- OWASA
- SGWASA

Together, we can turn this challenge into an opportunity to safeguard water quality for future generations. Thank you for considering this partnership.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or to confirm your participation at heathersomers@ncrwa.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Somers

Heather Somers
Executive Director,
North Carolina Rural Water Association



To join this coalition, please fill out the following details and return to Heather Somers at heathersomers@ncrwa.org

Name of Public Water System: _____

Authorized Representative Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

By signing this document, the aforementioned Public Water System agrees to participate in this coalition, including expenses, which will be shared among coalition members based on a sliding scale relative to their average daily water use. An example funding structure is provided below. Costs may be adjusted based on the final number of coalition members.

NCRWA PFAS Coalition Sliding Scale Cost Structure			
Average Daily Water Use	Annual Cost	Current # of Systems	Total Current Revenue
<1 MGD	\$ 500	2	\$ 1,000
1-5 MGD	\$ 3,000	1	\$ 3,000
6-15 MGD	\$ 9,000	4	\$ 36,000
16-25 MGD	\$ 15,000	2	\$ 30,000
> 25 MGD	\$ 24,000	2	\$ 48,000
<i>Updated April 1, 2025</i>			\$ 118,000

Attachment: Coalition Structure and Scope

Organizational Structure

The coalition will be hosted by the NC Rural Water Association. Members of the coalition will separately fund this legislative advocacy effort, but it will administratively fall under the umbrella of NCRWA. Costs associated with this advocacy effort will be shared on a sliding scale among coalition members.

Scope of Coalition Advocacy

This coalition will have a defined scope focused on assisting coalition members with funding for PFAS treatment, including up front capital costs and addressing ongoing operation and maintenance costs through legislative and executive branch advocacy. The coalition will solely focus on funding and not address regulatory issues.

Capital Costs

Coalition members will join forces to collectively advocate for NC General Assembly appropriations to offset capital expenses related to PFAS treatment technology and infrastructure.

Operational Costs

Recognizing that PFAS treatment also comes with increased operations and maintenance (O&M) costs, the coalition will also work together to advocate for measures that will decrease anticipated O&M expenses. While the General Assembly is unlikely to support recurring O&M funding — and any funding flowing through the State Revolving Funds prohibits expenditures on O&M — there are other options. This advocacy will focus on economic development, business recruitment, and other related measures to make the supply chain more efficient for PFAS treatment technology. This will include, but not be limited to, lobbying EDPNC to recruit businesses to NC that work on PFAS treatment, disposal, or destruction technology.

Lobbying

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