

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 16, 2023

The Honorable Brendan Owens  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
for Energy, Installations, and Environment  
United States Department of Defense  
200 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Assistant Secretary Owens:

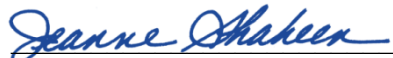
I write with concern regarding the communication between the Department of Defense and the Pease Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

At the November 1<sup>st</sup> RAB meeting at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service office in Portsmouth New Hampshire, community members were presented information by the U.S. Air Force about chicken egg data that was collected for the purpose of the Pease per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Remedial Investigation (RI). Community members in my state learned that eggs gathered from chickens that live in close proximity to the former Pease Air Force Base had high levels of PFAS. It was reported during this meeting that the Air Force shared only the property level data points with homeowners without context about the results, such as screening levels that could help indicate what results may be concerning. Property owners who are raising chickens and consuming those eggs or sharing them with neighbors must receive thorough and clear information so they can make the appropriate health decisions for their families. Transparency from the Department of Defense to community members in PFAS-affected areas is critical not only for earning the trust of the community, but also is central to your responsibility to help identify and mitigate PFAS exposure affecting our community members.

Therefore, I respectfully request an update by December 1<sup>st</sup> on steps being taken to clarify egg testing data as well as your broader efforts to improve coordination and communication with RABs and PFAS impacted communities to build trust and avoid future confusion.

Thank you for your swift attention to this matter and your continued work to address PFAS in our communities.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator