

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
United States Senate  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Hudson  
United States House of Representatives  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Murphy, M.D.  
United States House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deborah Ross  
United States House of Representatives  
1221 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Tillis, Senator Blumenthal, Representative Murphy, Representative Ross, and Representative Hudson:

As advocates and representatives for over one million members of the Uniformed Services, their family members, retirees, and survivors, we are proud to endorse reintroduction of the Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act (EJCLVA). It is time for the individuals who were exposed to toxic chemicals while serving our nation to receive justice after decades of denial from their government.

Our organizations have long advocated for those affected by toxic exposure, which is why we worked to support the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA), which was included in the PACT Act in the 117th Congress. The CLJA was enacted to provide a fair and timely path for judicial relief for the servicemembers, veterans, and family members who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune between 1953 and 1987.

It is now two and a half years since enactment of the PACT Act, and still only a very small fraction of claims have been resolved. At this time, over 408,000 administrative claims have been filed with the Department of the Navy, but the Department of Justice (DOJ) has only offered approximately 230 settlements to victims. No cases have gone to trial while DOJ continues to throw up roadblocks to relief for the affected veterans and family members who continue to wait for justice.

While cases stall and claims go unanswered, victims are passing away without the justice they deserve.

We are most concerned by the fact that contaminated water victims have been denied access to jury trials. Despite the fact Congress intended victims to have a right to trial by jury, DOJ misled Congress and then successfully fought in court to stop victims from having jury trials. One of the

key provisions of the EJCLVA is the reinstatement of jury trials to ensure victims have their cases heard by a jury of their peers.

The EJCLVA also clarifies that Congress only intended victims to show general causation. The current interpretation of the law has slowed down the legal process and would require victims to show evidence of when and where they may have been exposed to contaminated water between 36 and 71 years ago. The EJCLVA would correct this provision to give victims a more certain pathway to relief after decades of delay.

To further speed up resolution of cases, the EJCLVA would allow for victims to have their cases heard in an additional eight district courts. The Eastern District of NC would continue to serve as the sole jurisdiction for managing the global cases and resolving the most important legal questions – allowing for continued judicial efficiency and consistency in court decisions across all trials. And, because all of the district courts are located in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, victims can be further assured that decisions will be made on a clear and consistent basis.

The EJCLVA also puts in place caps on attorney's fees at 20% for cases settled before trial and 25% for cases that go to trial. This will ensure plaintiffs receive just compensation, have access to effective counsel, and are protected from exorbitant fees.

It is our pleasure to support the Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act of 2025, which will finally provide justice for the servicemembers, veterans, and their families exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. The need for action is urgent, otherwise more critically ill victims will not see justice in their lifetime because of decades of delay.

On behalf of our membership, we thank you all for your service and advocacy for our nation's servicemembers and veterans and look forward to working with you and your staff to advance the Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act of 2025.

Sincerely,

AMVETS  
Military Chaplains Association  
Moral Compass Federation  
Special Operations Association of America  
Veterans Education Project

CC:

Senate Majority Leader John Thune  
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson  
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries