

The Argument Against Using the Safe Drinking Water Act to Respond to PFAS in Drinking Water:

*“Numerous stakeholders, including Members of Congress, have recently called the USEPA to promulgate a federal regulatory standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for PFAS compounds. However, the Agency should resist calls for a national SDWA MCL for PFAS and instead the Agency should rely on alternative federal initiatives to **assist** communities dealing with PFAS contamination as opposed to regulating them. MCLs are regulatory levels for local governments enforced by levying fines on local citizens (the ratepayers) for communities out of compliance. What is actually needed in affected communities is **assistance** (i.e., funding for treatment, monitoring assistance, on-site technical assistance for emergency operations, credible public health information, emergency access to safe drinking water, and compensation from responsible parties). The SDWA’s mechanism of levying federal fines on local consumers for violations of MCLs is not a helpful solution for small and rural communities adversely affected by PFAS contamination. Federal civil enforcement fines of up to \$25,000 a day do not help a rural, low income community afford better water.”*