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**ATTORNEY GENERAL LOPEZ JOINS BIPARTISTAN COALITION OPPOSING 3M'S
PROPOSED PFAS SETTLEMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HONOLULU – Joining a bipartisan coalition of 22 attorneys general, Attorney General Anne Lopez opposed a proposed class action settlement that fails to adequately hold accountable the 3M Company (3M) for contaminating Americans' drinking water supply.

Under the proposed settlement, water providers would withdraw the hundreds of lawsuits they have filed against 3M over its use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—commonly referred to as “PFAS” or toxic “forever chemicals”—in a wide range of consumer products and firefighting foams. PFAS are stable in the environment, resistant to degradation, persistent in soil, and known to leach into groundwater.

“PFAS compounds are linked to a number of extremely serious health conditions, including cancer,” says First Deputy Attorney General Matt Dvonch, who is currently serving as Acting Attorney General while Attorney General Lopez is out of state. “The Department of the Attorney General is committed to ensuring that those who cause damage to our natural resources are held fully accountable, and this proposed settlement falls far short of that.”

The proposed settlement would apply to nearly every public water provider in the United States, even those that have not sued and even those that have yet to test for the presence of PFAS in their water. In return for waiving their claims, 3M would purportedly pay out \$10.5 to \$12.5 billion to water providers, an amount that is worth far less because of certain provisions that could ultimately force water providers to reimburse 3M for many costs.

In the brief filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, the California-led coalition warns that:

- Individual water providers would be bound by the proposed settlement *unless* they proactively opt out, whether or not they have sued 3M or already tested for PFAS. Troublingly, they would have to make their opt-out decisions without knowing how much they would actually receive and, in many cases, before knowing the extent of contamination in their water supplies and the cost of remediating it.
- The proposed settlement contains an indemnification clause, which shifts liability from 3M to water suppliers bound by settlement because they decided not to proactively opt-out. For example, if a cancer cluster develops in a PFAS-impacted community and the victims sue 3M, 3M would likely be able to seek compensation from the community's public water supplier for any amount it owed to the victims. As such, the proposed settlement is worth far less than the advertised \$10.5 billion to \$12.5 billion.

Joining Attorney General Lopez in opposing the proposed settlement are the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin, as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

A copy of the motion to intervene is available [here](#) and of the opposition [here](#).

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