Dear Editor,

Like wastewater systems across the country, we perform a critical service protecting the environment and human health by collecting and treating wastewater generated by our community. PFAS chemicals, common in everyday products, often end up in the wastewater we treat—not because we create them, but because they are so prevalent and persistent. PFAS entering the wastewater system comes from both industrial and

consumer sources, including everyday items like people’s clothes, cookware, and cosmetics, inevitably reaching our treatment plants.

This means that small amounts of PFAS can end up in our biosolids, a nutrient-rich byproduct of the wastewater treatment process used by farmers as a preferred alternative to synthetic, chemical-based fertilizers.

Decades of research and review by state and federal experts have shown that using

biosolids in agriculture is safe and sustainable, with support from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Agriculture. While EPA recently released a draft study finding potential risk from PFAS in biosolids to a very small and targeted segment of the population, it also indicated no risk to the general public or the general food supply. The biosolids we land apply continue to meet all federal and state regulations and safety standards.

As dedicated environmental stewards, we care deeply about the challenges posed by PFAS and are committed to doing our part to address them. It is essential that any changes to how we manage biosolids are rooted in evidence-based science. This approach ensures that solutions are not only effective but also a responsible use of our community’s limited financial resources.

To truly address PFAS pollution, efforts should prioritize controlling the source of these chemicals. By reducing PFAS at the point of origin, we can minimize their impact on wastewater systems and the environment more effectively.

We remain committed to collaborating with regulators, industries, and our community to find meaningful solutions that protect public health and the environment while supporting a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

General Manager