

## President, West Plains Water Coalition (John Hancock)

Ecology's current investigation of PFAS at SIA is a dream come true. Since 2024, the application of State regs and authorities seems swift and certain. While we wish it were faster, we're also reminded that our drinking water safety depends on proven evidence. I'm confident now that in Washington, the rules will aid our recovery.

But time and money are finite. Home filters cannot be purchased and installed without payment by the Responsible Parties, received through the channels they choose.

How our West Plains drinking water crisis stacks up against all the issues and needs of Spokane and Spokane County, and the priorities of both State and local health authorities will be a potent debate for a long time. Let's not keep waiting, "forever".

Our West Plains culture is threatened by worry about clean water, which manifests as personal stress, illness, properties that won't sell, instability in inter-generational family stewardship, giving up gardening and farming, and frictions among neighbors.

Since PFAS discoveries began at Fairchild in 2017, scientific evidence now shows that it gradually declines in our bodies over time, hastened by clean water consumption by ourselves, our children, and throughout the food chain. But the toxicity in current groundwater is enormous, deserving the universal testing and filters mandated by these emergency orders. "Made whole" is a wish still hard to imagine.

Count on the West Plains Water Coalition for continued partnership in this vital endeavor, and for first-person accounts of conditions and solutions, on the way to clean rural drinking water for us all.