



Tim Connor <tjconnor56@gmail.com>

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## interview request

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**French, Al** <AFRENCH@spokanecounty.org>

Fri, Dec 1, 2023 at 7:57 AM

To: Tim Connor <tjconnor56@gmail.com>

Cc: "Lyfar, Viktoria" <VLYFAR@spokanecounty.org>, "Bell, Pat" <PBELL@spokanecounty.org>, "Anderson, Chris" <CANDERSON@spokanecounty.org>

Hi Tim

Like you I have been traveling a lot lately and will be for the rest of the year. When I am in town, I have been dealing with year end business for both the county and the many other boards and commissions that I serve on.

Like many local elected officials, I have been active in the process of assessing the risk and potential mitigation since the presence of the chemicals from Fairchild Air Force Base were discovered. I have met with local representatives of the AirForce as well as at the Pentagon in Washington DC. I have also been in regular communication with our federal delegation as we collectively look to find a solution and funding sources.

As you are aware this is a national issue and the cost to correct or mitigate the presence will be in the billions of dollars and require funding from the federal government.

Next year the county will be placing on the ballot for renewal the Aquifer Protection Levy that was put into place to protect the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer back in the 80's. I have introduced the initiative to include in that ballot measure establishing a similar fund to address protecting and cleaning the aquifers on the West Plains as well. Whatever technology is developed to address the cleanup it will require funding and I'm trying to pursue solutions at this point.

There is still a lot that we don't know including the threshold to establish a health risk. There have been preliminary numbers but to my knowledge that threshold is still being debated at the federal level.

Addressing PFAS/PFOS is part of my activities and conversations very week and will be until we have a solution.

I hope that this gives you an idea of my level of commitment and efforts to find a solution. If you have a specific question, please send me an email with it.

Take care

Al French

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