

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We are writing to demand clarification on your intended budget and personnel reductions at the Environmental Protection Agency. We collectively represent thousands of the over 15,000 civil servants across the country currently employed at the Environmental Protection Agency, and millions of constituents who rely on the EPA to ensure their water is safe to drink, their air is safe to breathe, and their health is protected. We are outraged at the credible reports suggesting that you and the President have discussed cutting up to 65% of spending at the EPA. This comes after the President said during a February 26th cabinet meeting, “He thinks he’s going to be cutting 65% or so percent of people from Environmental” and had to be corrected by a White House official. This anecdote is another example of the chaotic and unorganized nature of this Administration, and is leaving our civil servants, constituents, and environmental protections in a state of disarray.

The EPA is not just a regulatory body; it is a frontline defender of public health, environmental safety, and economic stability. Its science-driven programs ensure that the water we drink is free from harmful contaminants like PFAS and lead, that the air we breathe is not laced with toxic pollutants, and that hazardous chemicals are controlled before they endanger human health. The EPA holds polluters accountable, cleans up toxic waste left by negligent actors, and safeguards our food from dangerous pesticides. Every community, from urban to rural, industrial to agricultural, depends on the EPA’s expertise to prevent environmental crises before they spiral into public health disasters. Gutting the agency through drastic budget cuts would cripple its ability to respond to emerging threats, dismantle decades of scientific progress, and put millions of lives at risk. At a time when climate change and pollution are intensifying, weakening the EPA by cutting its budget and firing its invaluable civil servants is not just irresponsible. It is a direct threat to the well-being of every American. The value of the work conducted by the civil servants at EPA cannot be overstated, and Americans agree. Recent polling found that 86% of voters oppose attempts to weaken the EPA, including 76% of Trump voters.¹ Significant cuts to this vital agency are in direct opposition to what this country wants.

¹ *2024 Voter Priorities*, Seven Letter Insight and Environmental Protection Network, Found at: <https://www.environmentalprotectionnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-Post-Election-Poll-EPN-Questions-Deck.pdf>

In addition to the damage proposed cuts would have on Americans, the current uncertainty and instability poses a direct threat to the integrity of the scientific community, which could reverberate for years to come. Slashing the EPA's funding would cripple its ability to provide essential protections, drive innovations in environmental science, and respond to emerging threats. Beyond the immediate damage, this instability discourages top scientists and experts from joining or remaining at the agency, jeopardizing its ability to safeguard public health and the environment for future generations.

We strongly urge you to faithfully fulfill your duties as Administrator and uphold the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency to protect human health and the environment by maintaining funding and personnel levels at your agency, thereby enabling the EPA to continue its vital work in safeguarding public health and the environment.

Consequently, we respectfully request responses to the following questions clarifying your plans by March 26, 2025:

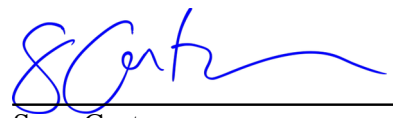
1. Does the Administration plan to reduce EPA funding or staffing by 65%, as has been reported?
2. If significant funding or staffing cuts are intended, which specific programs, projects, and offices within the agency will be affected by these cuts, and what criteria will be employed to make that determination?
3. How many EPA employees across the country are expected to be fired as a result of these proposed cuts, and what criteria will be used to determine which individuals lose their jobs?
4. What EPA functions are expected to be disrupted due to these budget cuts? Can you guarantee that the disruptions caused by cuts to the EPA budget will not compromise drinking water quality, air quality, or public health?
5. Has EPA conducted a risk assessment to evaluate the short- and long-term risks to the environment, human health, and the economy that would result from these proposed cuts?
6. What is the expected timeline for implementing these budgetary and staffing cuts?

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



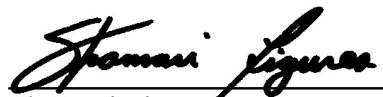
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



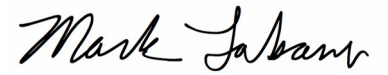
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



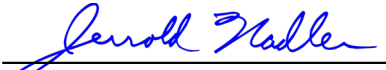
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



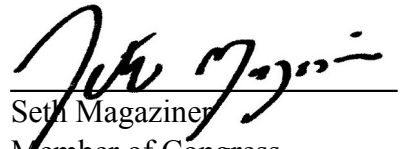
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



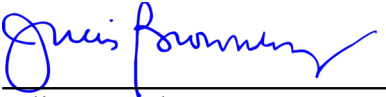
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



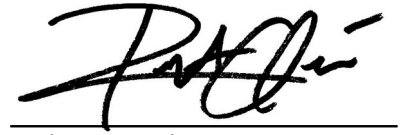
Terrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



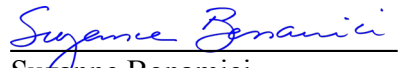
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



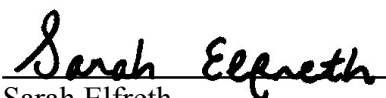
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



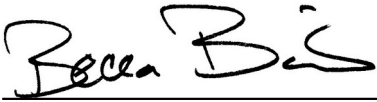
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



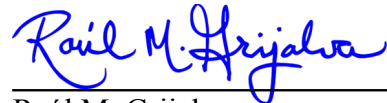
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



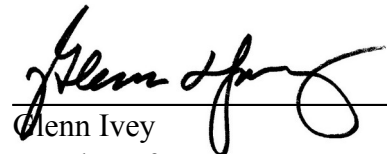
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



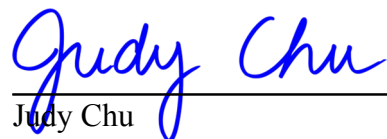
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



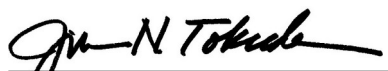
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



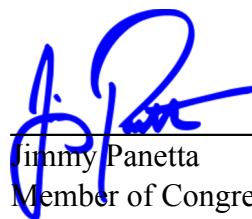
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress




Ed Case
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



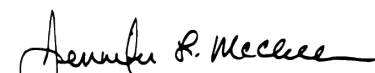
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



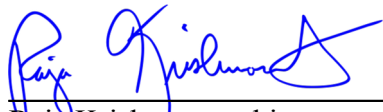
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



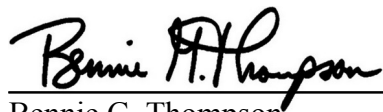
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



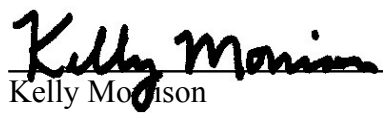
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress




Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



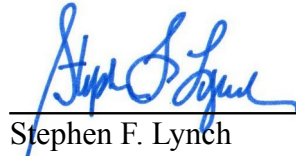
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



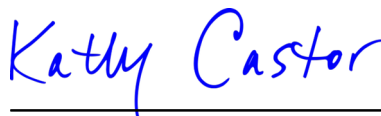
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



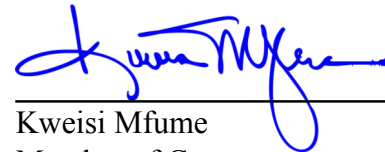
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



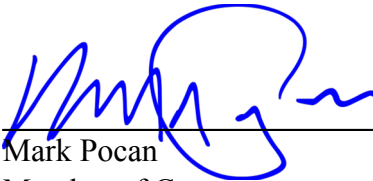
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



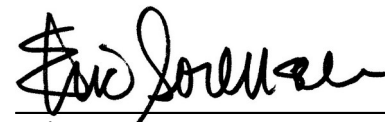
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



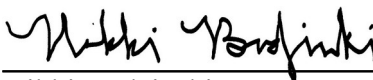
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



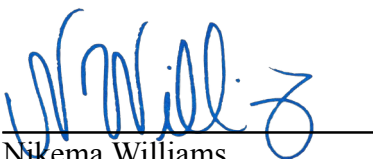
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



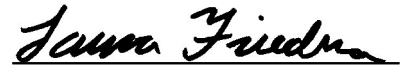
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



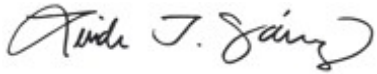
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



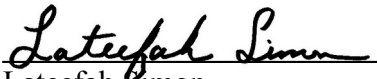
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



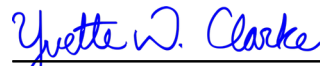
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



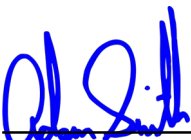
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



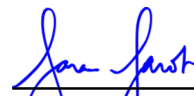
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress