

# 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> Significant cuts to this vital agency are in direct opposition to what this country wants.

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<sup>1</sup> *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,



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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



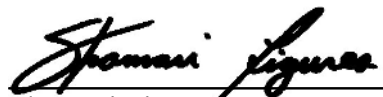
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LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Shomari Figures  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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



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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

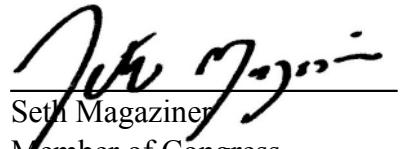


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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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



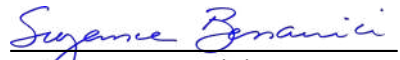
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



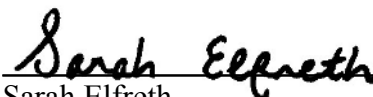
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress




Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



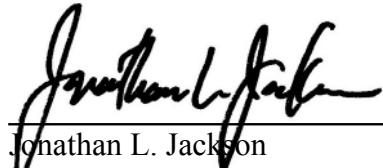
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



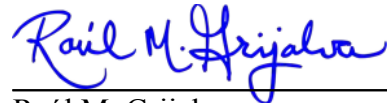
Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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



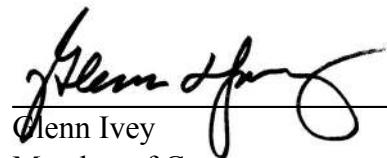
Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



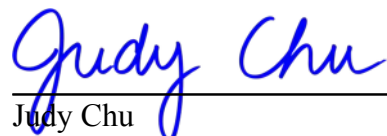
Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



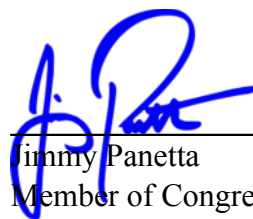
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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



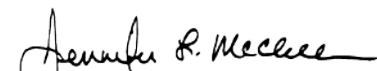
Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



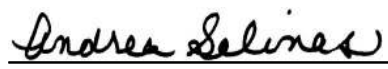
George Latimer  
Member of Congress



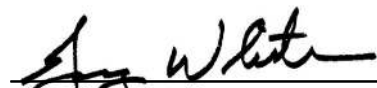
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress




Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



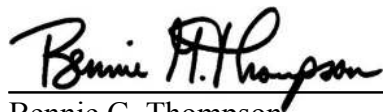
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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



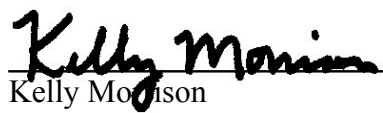
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



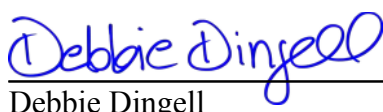
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



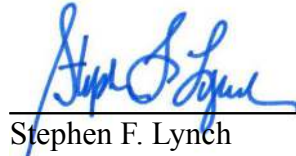
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



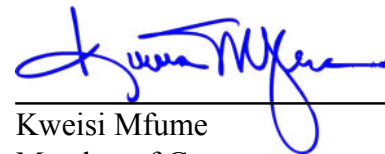
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



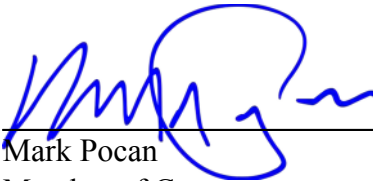
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



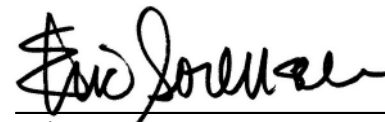
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



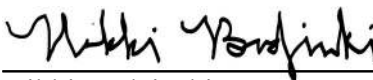
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



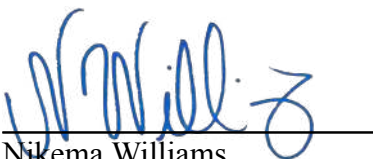
Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



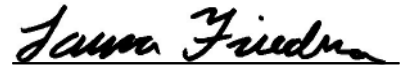
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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



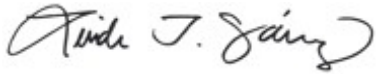
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



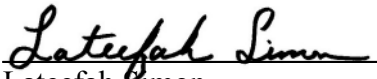
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



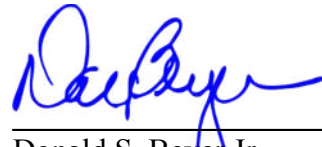
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



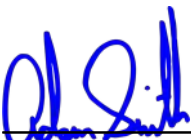
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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress