

May 9, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of the Environmental Protection Network (EPN), I am writing today to request your support for agency-wide and program-level funding at EPA at levels sufficient to properly staff and effectively implement the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other bedrock environmental laws on which Americans depend for their health and prosperity.

EPN is a nonprofit organization that harnesses the expertise of more than 650 former EPA career staff and confirmation-level appointees from Democratic and Republican administrations to provide the unique perspective of former scientists and regulators with decades of historical and subject matter knowledge.

For years, EPA's core funding has remained stagnant, hampering its ability to properly meet its statutory requirements. Since 1980, EPA's budget in inflation-adjusted dollars has essentially been cut in half. Meanwhile, the population it serves has grown by 44% and the scope of its mission has been expanded by Congress to address an increasing array of public health and environmental threats.

Given the required scope of EPA's mission, Congress should provide at least \$12 billion in funding for the agency for Fiscal Year 2026 and no less than Fiscal Year 2025 enacted levels. In addition to this top-line amount, we ask for support for EPA program level funding in the amounts described below so that these programs can properly meet their requirements.

The President's Fiscal Year 2026 Discretionary Budget Request includes a 55% cut to EPA's topline budget. In the experience of our members, this would be unfeasible and such deep funding cuts would make executing the duties EPA is required to perform impossible. The proposed cuts would put communities in harm's way as funding and support to the states shrinks, infrastructure investment is curtailed, scientific research is undermined and politicized, emergency response is degraded, and compliance with the law falls.

Not only would these cuts go against 50 years of bipartisan support under Republican and Democratic Congresses and presidents, but they would go against the will of the American people. Recent polling found that the overwhelming support for EPA's mission across all demographics has not abated. [Polling by the bipartisan firm Seven Letter Insight](#), performed on behalf of EPN, found 86% of voters, including 76% of voters who supported President Trump,

oppose attempts to weaken EPA, while 88% of voters, including 81% of voters who supported President Trump, would prefer to see EPA funding increased or remain the same.

Given these facts, we request the following funding levels be requested of the Appropriations Committee so that core EPA functions may continue to meet the needs of the country.

<b>\$12.083 billion, or more, for the Environmental Protection Agency</b>			
<b>\$1.01 billion</b>	<b>Science &amp; Technology</b>	\$585.4 million	Office of Research & Development to perform research in Air, Climate and Energy, Chemical Safety, Sustainable Communities, and Safe and Sustainable Water Resources.
		\$227.4 million	Clean Air and Climate Programs
		\$72.9 million	Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program, including regional labs
		\$19.3 million	Enforcement Activities
<b>\$4.41 billion</b>	<b>Environmental Programs &amp; Management</b>	\$694.6 million	Clean Air and Climate Programs
		\$485 million	Enforcement Activities
		\$317.7 million	Programs addressing needs in overburdened and vulnerable communities (formerly administered by the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights)
		\$313.3 million	Clean Water Programs
		\$183.4 million	Toxics Risk Review and Prevention Programs
		\$168.4 million	Compliance Activities
		\$146.3 million	Safe Water Programs
		\$39 million	Brownfields Program
<b>\$4.53 billion</b>	<b>State &amp; Tribal Assistance Grants</b>	\$500 million	State and Local Air Quality Management Grants
		\$168 million	Brownfields Projects and Grants
		\$150 Million	Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program
		\$85.25 million	Tribal Air Quality Management Grants

In addition to these funding levels, we request the following implementing language be added in order to maintain the effectiveness of EPA’s mission.

- Language opposing and preventing EPA’s plan to weaken pollution standards and safeguards, including the 31 actions listed in EPA’s March 12, 2025 press release.
- Language reaffirming Congressional support for EPA prioritizing actions to protect communities disproportionately affected by environmental contaminants, including reconstituting OEJEER’s programs or transferring them to other program offices for implementation.
- Language reaffirming Congressional support for EPA to continue addressing climate change and carbon pollution and opposing the closure of the Office of Atmospheric Protection and the termination of its climate change related programs.

- Language supporting EPA's continued assistance to water systems for replacing lead service lines, addressing PFAS and emerging contaminants, and increasing their resilience to natural or cyber threats.
- Language preventing, or reversing the elimination, reorganization, staff reduction, and/or mission alteration of the Office of Research and Development.
- Language supporting EPA's mandated responsibility to enforce all environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.
- Language ensuring the Office of Inspector General's independence is preserved and verified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Roos".

Michelle Roos  
Executive Director  
Environmental Protection Network