

Letter to the Editor: Safeguard Merit-Based Federal Service in [Region Name]

For [insert number] years, I had the privilege of serving in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in [EPA Region #], headquartered in [City, State]. I worked alongside committed public servants — environmental scientists, engineers, emergency response coordinators, legal and policy experts, and others — all devoted to a singular mission: protecting human health and the environment. These professionals are of exceptional competence and integrity, and many are our neighbors throughout [Region name or states].

Today, that integrity is under threat. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management has proposed a rule that would allow the President to reclassify large numbers of career federal employees as “Schedule F,” effectively stripping them of long-established civil service protections. These employees could then be hired or dismissed at will, based on political loyalty rather than merit.

This proposal undermines the foundational principles of federal service. The Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act of 1883 was enacted to end the patronage-based “spoils system” and establish a professional workforce, hired and promoted on the basis of competence and achievement, not political affiliation or personal connection.

In [Region Name], we understand the importance of nonpartisan expertise. Whether it's [insert 2–3 region-specific examples, e.g., cleaning up industrial contamination, improving tribal water systems, restoring coastal wetlands, or regulating emissions from energy infrastructure], our communities rely on the professionalism and independence of EPA staff. Undermining those values risks weakening the very systems that protect public health and natural resources.

This is not merely a bureaucratic adjustment. It is a direct challenge to the principles of good governance. Reintroducing political litmus tests into the federal workforce would erode morale, diminish effectiveness, and open the door to favoritism and corruption, precisely the abuses that civil service reform was designed to prevent.

You can get good background information [here](#).

We must stand together to preserve a professional, nonpartisan federal civil service — in the public interest, for [Region Name] and for the nation.