



Toolkit: The Stark Difference Between the MAHA Report and the EPA's Actions

Introduction

The White House released the [Make America Healthy Again Commission report](#) last week. Marketed as a plan to improve children's health, the roadmap falls far short: it sidesteps pesticide and drinking water regulation and instead prioritizes industry-friendly changes like accelerating chemical approvals.

It's a major victory for Big Ag and chemical companies, which successfully pressured the White House to dilute Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s earlier promises to confront harmful agricultural practices.

EPN released a [reaction statement for the media](#) last week featuring Dr. Betsy Southerland, who was EPA's Director of Science and Technology in the Office of Water. Protecting children's health is a core part of Environmental Protection Network's mission, and we are providing this resource to volunteers to help expose the real danger: public health policy that prioritizes polluting industries at the direct expense of children and families.

Talking Points

- **We all agree on the need to protect children's health** and put a greater focus on addressing chronic childhood disease, but the MAHA report completely ignores the dangerous reality families face every day as EPA

dismantles protections from toxic chemicals for Americans' air, water, and soil.

- **The MAHA report's rhetoric doesn't match reality.** The MAHA strategy flags pesticides, PFAS, and air pollution as harmful to the health of American families, yet EPA Administrator Zeldin and the chemical industry leaders he has installed as EPA decisionmakers are actively weakening the controls designed to limit those toxics. Instead of protecting health, Zeldin's EPA is making Americans sicker—and raising costs in the process.
- **EPA's actions tell the real story: Americans' health is at risk and the polluting industries have taken charge.** Anyone who cares about the childhood chronic disease crisis in America needs to look closely at what EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin is doing, not what he is saying. He is doing polluters' bidding with a stream of EPA proposals and actions that weaken or eliminate environmental regulations—moves that benefit industrial polluters at the expense of public health and the environment. For example,
 - EPA plans to revoke the Endangerment Finding, eliminating the legal basis for regulating climate pollution from sources like vehicles, power plants, and the oil and gas sector. This is an extraordinary abdication of EPA's duty to safeguard public health and the environment.
 - A [former chemical lobbyist](#) has been put in charge of approving new chemicals at EPA.
 - WATER: EPA plans to [rescind standards that keep PFAS "forever chemicals" out of drinking water](#). That will mean more cancer, weakened immune systems, low birth weight in babies, and developmental effects on growing kids.
 - AIR: The Administration granted two-year exemptions to over 100 chemical plants, refineries, and coal-fired power plants from meeting air toxic standards—and is now moving to dismantle the very

regulations that make those protections possible. That means nearby communities will continue to be forced to breathe invisible plumes of poison, with no way to protect themselves.

- **While MAHA calls for new action, EPA puts health at risk.** Children, seniors, and people with chronic conditions are being left exposed by EPA. The food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe are becoming more toxic because of the gutting of EPA's health and science guardrails.

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I spent my career at EPA working to ensure every family could count on clean air and safe water. That's why the new MAHA report is so alarming.

It talks about protecting children from pesticides, PFAS, and air pollution—but the reality is very different. EPA is rolling back the very safeguards that keep families safe.

This is **rhetoric vs. reality**—and the reality is more toxic exposure, resulting in more cancer, more sickness and fewer protections for the most vulnerable.

It's time for EPA to put public health before polluters.

#CleanAir #SafeWater #SaveEPA

OR

The gap between the MAHA report and the EPA's actions could not be more stark. When I was at the EPA, I saw firsthand how critical it is to put public health above the interests of polluting industries. Administrator Lee Zeldin is failing that standard.