

EPA CORE PROGRAMS – WHY THEY MATTER

For almost 50 years, EPA has advanced the protection of the air, water and land through core programs and actions that underpin its mission to protect public health and the environment. Today, those protections are under siege. The Trump Administration and both houses of Congress have proposed budgets for 2018 that fail to provide EPA with adequate resources needed to perform its core functions. The drastic cuts will prevent experienced engineers, attorneys, scientists, educators, support staff and others from fulfilling the agency's mission and are an indirect way to undercut many decades of environmental and public health law-making. They will have a direct and lasting effect on the health and quality of life of all Americans.

What Protections are at Stake?

Clean, Breathable Air

Dirty air contributes to serious health problems, including lung and heart disease, asthma attacks and other respiratory conditions, and even premature births.

- **Improved Air Quality** – To protect public health, EPA sets enforceable air quality standards for power plants and industrial facilities, reduces vehicle emissions, monitors air quality and shares that information with the public, allowing people to track air quality in their communities.
- **Cleaner Indoor Air** – EPA has been at the forefront of efforts to understand the indoor air pollutants that trigger asthma attacks and raise public awareness of how to prevent them.

Clean Water

- **Safe Drinking Water** – EPA uses science to identify and set limits for drinking water contaminants, protecting consumers from exposure to toxic chemicals and bacteria and other organisms that can cause serious waterborne illnesses.
- **Protected Waterways** – EPA protects 3.5 million miles of freshwater rivers, lakes and streams and 28 estuaries where freshwater mixes with salt water from the sea; curbs ocean dumping; controls polluted runoff; and restores “impaired” polluted waters.

Protection from Chemicals and Pesticides – EPA protects the public from toxic chemicals and pesticides, using science to evaluate their risks and working to prevent or reduce pollution before it is created.

- EPA evaluates new chemicals for their toxicity and is just beginning the daunting process of evaluating thousands of chemicals already in use as Congress directed in 2015.
- EPA registers pesticides to ensure their safety and reviews pesticides used on food to be sure they are safe for children.

Reduction of Hazardous Waste – Modern industrial activity generates huge amounts of hazardous waste that finds its way into communities and agricultural areas, threatening health and welfare. EPA helps ensure that hazardous waste is managed safely from creation through disposal.

Adequate Environmental Enforcement – Enforcement is a way to ensure that everyone follows the rules.

- EPA, using the tools of science, monitors and inspects polluting facilities and brings civil and criminal cases against companies that willfully endanger communities.
- Preparing and prosecuting these cases is resource intensive, but the results are critically important for the communities exposed to danger by companies that don't follow the rules.

For Further information – Visit our website: www.environmentalprotectionnetwork.org

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