

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

CC:

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
House Committee on Natural Resources – Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

Subject: Urging Reconsideration of Policy Changes That Threaten Public Health, the Environment, and Economic Stability

Dear Mr. Zeldin; Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources; and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Environment and Public Works; and Energy and Natural Resources:

We, the undersigned, are expressing our serious concerns about actions that are being initiated and plans that are being developed that will undo decades of work advancing science and policies supporting environmental quality. We are specifically referencing research funding cuts, workforce reductions in key agencies, and the planned dismantling of critical environmental regulations. These moves will not only impact public health and wellbeing, but they will subsequently seriously damage the U.S. economy. These changes will impact the ability of U.S. businesses to compete in global value chains and ruin the U.S.'s reputation as a leader in environmental sciences. A loss of funds and workforce at the federal level will also result in declining public trust and will have negative ramifications for the U.S. society and economy. In the strongest of terms, we highly recommend against implementing such actions to avoid their detrimental impacts.

We are extremely concerned by the current plans of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administration to dismantle 31 environmental regulations in what it described as the "[Biggest Deregulatory Action in U.S. History.](#)" Deregulations at the federal level shift the burden to states and complicates the ability of industry to conduct business, which is inherently inefficient and will derail progress on environmental issues across the U.S. These plans also include eliminating EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and more than 1,000 dedicated employees. This will limit the ability of the U.S. to lead the world in terms of environmental management as these roles are critical in terms of protecting the health of all people living in the U.S. and are also critical in terms of allowing U.S. business interests to remain globally competitive. Plainly stated, if the EPA is not at the table in global environmental policy discussions, other voices will fill the void, placing U.S. businesses at risk. For decades, EPA

ORD employees have worked collaboratively with scientists and professionals from other sectors, most notably the U.S. business sectors, to advance the science that informed many environmental regulations in the U.S. and around the world, which not only fueled the economy but also supported clean water and a healthy environment.

The recent research funding cut and workforce reductions across all federal agencies raise significant concerns about the future of evidence-based policymaking and environmental and public health protection. This is particularly alarming in agencies that perform vital information gathering, management, and other functions that support U.S. taxpayer's investments. The EPA, as well as many other agencies – including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – play a critical role in protecting our environment and public health. Some of the most important functions in this regard include preserving our air and water, forecasting and mitigating natural disasters, and enforcing laws and regulations for public and environmental health protection. They accomplish this by delivering sound and impartial science to resource managers, emergency response teams, and the public. Weakening these agencies will be devastating for our environment and for the health of our communities and equally to the economy. Moreover, the blatant disregard for environmental scientists and managers, who have dedicated their careers to ensure public health, ultimately hurts all citizens. It is also especially disheartening for students and early career scientists who had planned to dedicate their life to meeting environmental challenges and ensuring a better future for all of us.

We urge the reconsideration of plans that would weaken the United States' ability to protect human and environmental health, erode public trust, and harm the environment, its people, and the economy in the process.

Sincerely,

To be added upon final submission