

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree,

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2027 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$12 billion in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and at minimum, no less than at Fiscal Year 2026 enacted levels, in order for the agency to carry out its critical work to address air pollution, protect public health, and combat the climate crisis. It is imperative Congress provide sufficient funding to enable the agency and its staff to achieve its congressionally mandated goals.

The EPA has long been greatly underfunded and understaffed and while the agency's budget and capacity have shrunk, the threat of the climate crisis and the resulting costs to our health and economy have grown. Air pollution causes serious health problems and disproportionately affects communities of color, fenceline communities, and lower-income communities that are already overburdened by pollution. The cost of inaction on climate is estimated to exceed \$820 billion in health costs every year, plus the costs of decreased worker productivity and lost work days, and those costs are expected to increase. The global economic costs of climate change could reach \$38 trillion per year by 2050. Investing in climate action, cleaner air, and environmental protection now by adequately funding the EPA will save billions of dollars and thousands of lives per year.

Americans need a strong EPA that is sufficiently funded and staffed to carry out its responsibilities in service of the American people. The EPA sets science-based pollution standards, which reduce people's exposure to health-harming chemicals and save lives. EPA programs and funding mechanisms support air quality monitoring, lead pipe removal, brownfield site remediation, and wastewater infrastructure projects. The EPA helps communities prepare for, respond to, and rebuild from catastrophic and costly extreme weather events. In performing and supporting these essential services and more, the EPA protects families and consumers, revitalizes neighborhoods, and benefits the economy.

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Nearly half of Americans—156 million people—are living in communities with unhealthy levels of air pollution. That is 25 million more people than the previous year, according to the American Lung Association. Accordingly, in addition to the topline funding request, we urge you to provide robust funding for the EPA’s clean air programs funded through the Science and Technology, Environmental Programs and Management, and State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) accounts to support the agency’s work to reduce harmful air pollution, control radiation exposure, mitigate climate change, and ensure compliance and enforcement. Funding these accounts will also support state, local, and Tribal air pollution control agencies in monitoring and addressing on-the-ground emissions. At the very least, we urge you to fund these accounts at no less than Fiscal Year 2026 enacted levels. Specifically, we request funding for Fiscal Year 2027 at the following levels:

- \$227.4 million for the Clean Air and Climate Program funded through the Science and Technology account;
- \$19.3 million for enforcement activities funded through the Science and Technology account;
- \$694.6 million for the Clean Air and Climate Program funded through the Environmental Programs and Management account;
- \$168.4 million for compliance activities funded through the Environmental Programs and Management account;
- \$485 million for enforcement activities funded through the Environmental Programs and Management account;
- \$500 million for State and Local Air Quality Management Grants funded through the STAG Categorical Grants account;
- \$85.25 million for Tribal Air Quality Management Grants funded through the STAG Categorical Grants account.

Additionally, we ask that you include bill language providing clear direction and stronger accountability for the EPA Administrator to follow congressionally directed staffing levels. In 2025, the EPA lost approximately 4,000 staff (about 25% of the agency), leaving the agency at historically low levels – more than 2,000 positions below Ronald Reagan’s final budgets. With vital positions across EPA regions vacant, the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bill directed the EPA to “maintain staffing levels in order to fulfill the mission and statutory obligations of the agency, including Section 2(f) of the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 4363).” We ask that this bill language is included again in the Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations bill.

As of the date of this letter, we are not aware of any meaningful effort by the EPA to follow this direction and restore staffing to levels commensurate with the appropriated funding levels.

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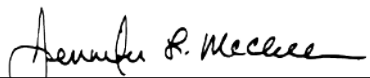
Therefore, we ask that the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee consider including the following report language:

“EPA shall support staffing levels necessary to fulfill its statutory responsibilities including carrying out programs, projects, and activities authorized and funded under the statutes enforced by EPA, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act, the Federal Fungicide Insecticide and Rodenticide Act, CERCLA, EPCRA, NEPA in a timely manner: EPA shall provide sufficient enforcement personnel to insure compliance with statutes under its jurisdiction.

The Administrator shall submit a detailed plan and justification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and make publicly available to allow for an independent review not less than 60 days prior to initiating the execution of any reorganization moving functions within EPA, pursuant to any authorities otherwise provided; or Reduction In Force, carried out by EPA relative to how such functions are funded in this Act.”

The threat of pollution and the climate crisis to our health, safety, and economic prosperity is more acute than ever. Funding the EPA and these accounts at the highest possible levels is essential to carrying out the EPA’s core mission to protect public health and to ensuring the American people and future generations have access to clean air and livable communities. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our request.

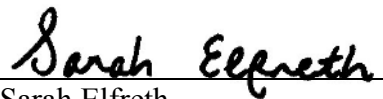
Sincerely,



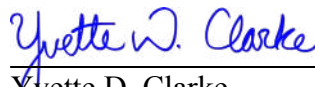
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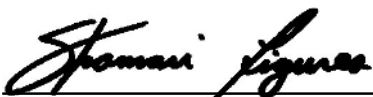
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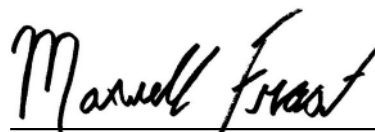
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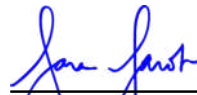
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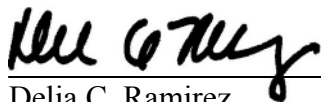
Sara Jacobs
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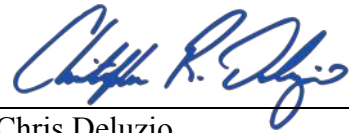
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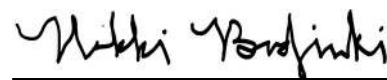
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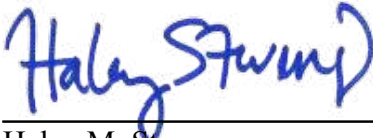
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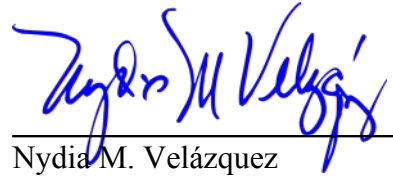
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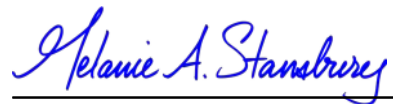
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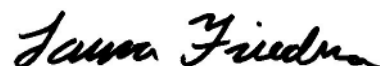
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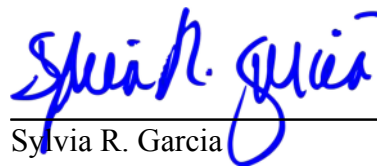
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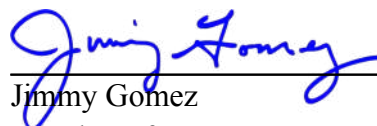
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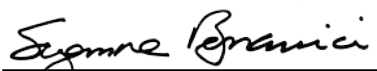
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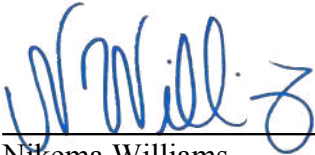
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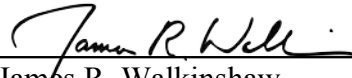
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LaMonica McIver
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Josh Gottheimer
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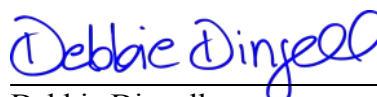
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Josh Riley
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Debbie Dingell
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Greg Landsman
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Suzan K. DelBene
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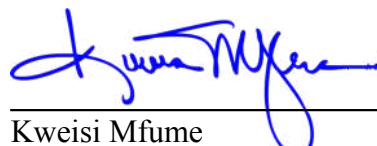
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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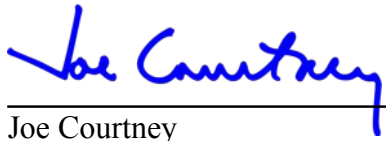
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



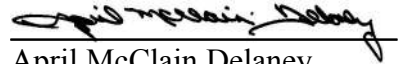
Kweisi Mfume
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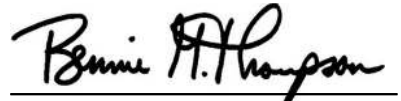
Joe Courtney
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April McClain Delaney
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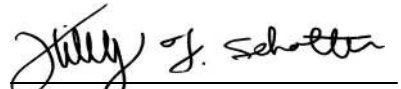
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



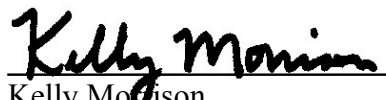
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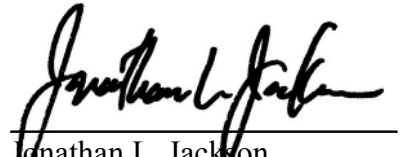
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Hillary J. Scholten
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Jason Crow
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Robert J. Menendez
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Greg Stanton
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