

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2025

Administrator Lee Zeldin  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

We write to express our concern regarding recent reports that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has investigated and placed at least 139 EPA employees on administrative leave because they signed a letter to you that criticizes the administration for undermining the EPA's core mission of protecting human health and the environment.

The letter was written to you and copied to the House committees responsible for EPA oversight, signed by EPA employees from every EPA regional office across the country, including headquarters, programmatic offices, and laboratories.

In addition to the at least 139 who signed the letter and have now been placed on leave, hundreds signed anonymously due to fear of retaliation by the administration. We are deeply concerned that placing these employees on administrative leave was a violation of their First Amendment rights.

The letter at issue called for an end to partisan activity in the agency's work, respect for scientific consensus, renewed protection of at-risk communities, prevention of the dismantling of the EPA's Office of Research and Development, and an end to intimidation in the EPA workplace.

The abrupt sidelining of these employees appears to be without consideration of the Agency's workload and the impact their removal from the workplace will have on public health and our environment. EPA staff that has been put on administrative leave include inspectors, enforcement officers, attorneys, on-scene coordinators, permit reviewers, grant managers, and emergency response personnel. We are concerned about the negative impacts that removing these employees from their work has on the agency's ability to protect public health and the environment nationwide. Investigating and sidelining these employees denies the American public the benefit of their vital work protecting human health.

We ask that the Administration cease this investigation and immediately reinstate the employees who signed this letter, without taking any adverse actions against them. We urge you to recognize the critical importance of these workers to the EPA's mission and to allow them to return to their vital work on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



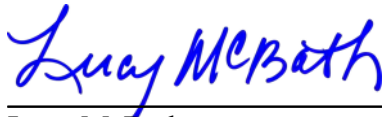
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



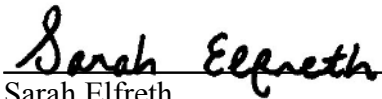
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Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



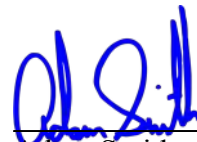
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



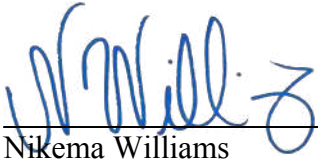
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



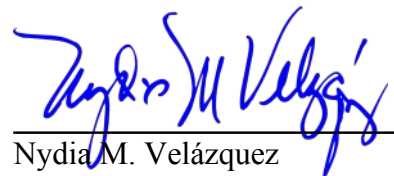
Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



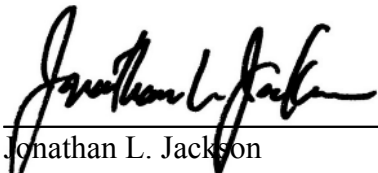
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



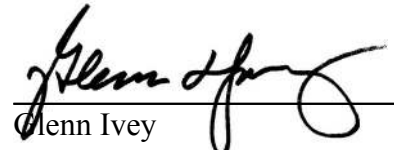
Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



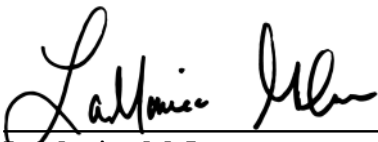
Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



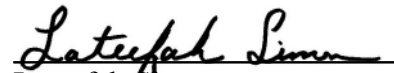
Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



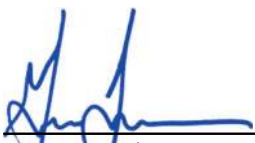
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress

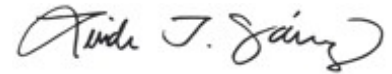


Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



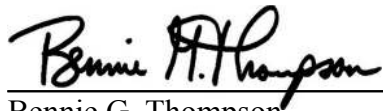
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



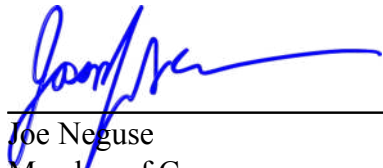
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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



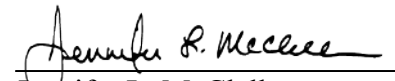
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



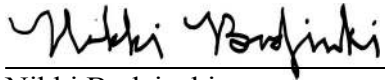
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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



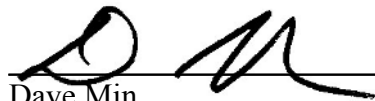
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



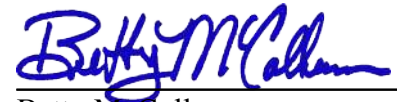
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



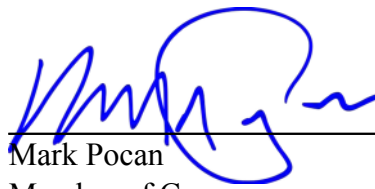
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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



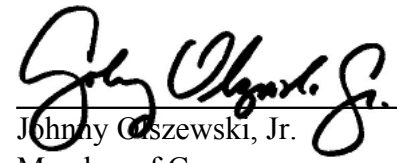
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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Johnny Giszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



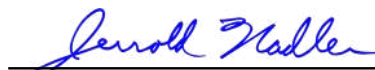
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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



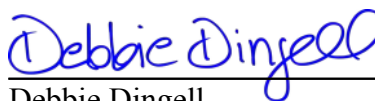
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



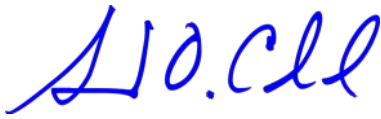
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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress




Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress




Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



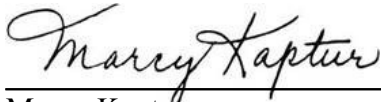
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



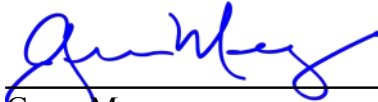
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



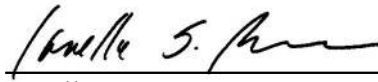
April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress



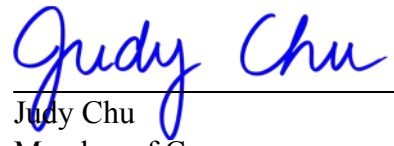
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



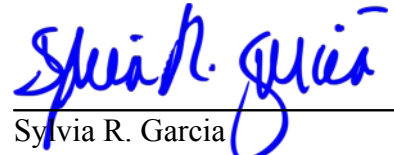
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress




Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress