

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2022

The Honorable Michael Regan Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We are writing to support the workforce of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as they work with you to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement. A robust and effective EPA workforce is especially important as the agency implements key provisions in the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (Pub. L. 117-58) and the *Inflation Reduction Act* (Pub. L. 117-169) to create jobs, bring down costs, and address the climate emergency. We hope you will finalize a contract that empowers EPA employees to carry out their vital mission.

We know you share our commitment to ensuring that EPA recruits and retains the top-notch scientists, engineers, and other specialists who are at the frontlines of keeping communities safe from pollution and confronting climate change. Completing work on a new collective bargaining agreement that invests in the EPA workforce and protects sound science is vital to enabling the agency to fulfill its mission, both now and in the future.

President Biden set a clear and welcome tone at the start of his administration with Executive Order 14003, *Protecting the Federal Workforce*, which stated the policy of the United States to "encourage union organizing and collective bargaining," and "protect, empower, and rebuild the career Federal workforce." The prior Administration took the opposite approach with unrelenting attacks on federal workers and collective bargaining, and a new collective bargaining agreement is vital to undo the damage from these attacks on EPA's work and workforce.

Thank you for your leadership at a time when the EPA is needed more than ever. We stand ready to support your efforts to complete a fair collective bargaining agreement with EPA workers.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen United States Senator

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Elizabeth Warren United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey United States Senator

Shurrod Brown

Sherrod Brown United States Senator

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Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin United States Senator

Bernard Sanders United States Senator

Jacky Rosen U.S. Senator

Richard Blumenthal United States Senator

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Robert P. Casey, Jr. United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin United States Senator

Cory A. Booker United States Senator

Alex Padilla United States Senator

Tammy Duckwath

Tammy Duckworth United States Senator

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Tina Smith United States Senator

Martin Heinrich United States Senator

Gary Certers United States Senator

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Amy Klobuchar United States Senator

Ron Wyden United States Senator

Kirsten Gillions

Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senator

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Debbie Stabenow United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

United States Senator

u Patty Murr

United States Senator

John Hickenlooper United States Senator

Tim Kaine United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet United States Senator