

May 24, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Merkley, Ranking Member Murkowsky, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Pingree,

On behalf of our collective millions of members and supporters, we write in full support of President Biden's Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget request of nearly \$11 billion to fund the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and urge you to meet this request in FY25 appropriations bills. Specifically, we urge you to fully fund the EPA Clean Air programs at \$831 million across accounts, as requested by the President. This funding is crucial for the EPA to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment, including its work to strengthen clean air safeguards, combat the climate crisis, and advance environmental justice.

We appreciate the President's steadfast commitment to clean air, water, and a healthy environment in his FY25 budget request. Though we recognize that discretionary funding caps were put in place under the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, the EPA continues to operate under significant funding and staffing constraints while carrying out an extensive slate of responsibilities to protect human health and the environment. The agency requires increased funding for FY25 to fulfill its obligations.

The Clean Air Program is the focal point of the agency's important work to reduce harmful air pollution, control radiation exposure, and mitigate climate change. It is supported through the Clean Air line at EPA, which is funded through both the Science and Technology and the Environmental Programs and Management accounts. Robust funding for the Clean Air program will support the EPA's core mission of ensuring all Americans have access to clean air and livable communities. This includes implementing and enforcing the reductions of harmful pollutants like smog and soot; reducing asthma-inducing pollution from vehicles and industrial sources; limits on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and other pollutants that are accelerating climate

change; and protecting public health from hazardous air pollutants such as mercury, arsenic and lead.

Nearly 4 in 10 people in America live in places with unhealthy levels of air pollution.¹ Air pollution causes serious health problems and disproportionately affects communities of color, fenceline communities, and lower-income communities that are already overburdened by pollution. Full funding for the Clean Air program accounts will support critical work to improve air quality, cut climate pollution, and deliver strong public health protections for all communities. Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of our request so the public can breathe easier.

Sincerely,

350 Wisconsin

Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE)

Alaska Wilderness League

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Sustainable Business Network (ASBN)

Arizona Climate Action Coalition

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light

Change the Chamber

Children's Environmental Health Network

Clean Energy Business Network

Clean Water Action

Clean Wisconsin

Climate Action Campaign

Earth Justice Ministry at UUCP (unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix)

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light

Earthjustice

Elders Climate Action

Elders Climate Action - AZ

Elected Officials to Protect America Code Blue Water Solutions

Environmental Defense Fund

Environmental Protection Network

Environmental Working Group

Evergreen Action

Extreme Weather Survivors

Faith in Place

Franciscan Action Network

¹ American Lung Association "State of the Air" 2024 report <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/key-findings>

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL)
Green The Church
GreenLatinos
Groundwork Center For Resilient Communities
Hispanic Access Foundation
Institute for a Progressive Nevada
Interfaith Power & Light
Kids for Saving Earth
League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch
Make the Road Nevada
Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light, Inc.
Mi Familia Vota - Nevada
Michigan Climate Action Network
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Michigan Sustainable Business Forum
Moms Clean Air Force
Moms Clean Air Force - Arizona
Montana Interfaith Power and Light
National Environmental Health Association
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature for All
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
Oil Change International
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Sierra Club
Silvix Resources
Sustainable Tucson
The Fire Restoration Group
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Church of Christ
Unlimited Potential

Watershed Research & Training Center
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Western Watersheds Project
Wild Montana
Young, Gifted & Green

CC:

Senate Majority Leader Schumer
House Minority Leader Jeffries
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Murray
Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Collins
House Appropriations Committee Chairman Cole
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member DeLauro