

August 6, 2025

Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair, Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC

Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC

Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Appropriations
Washington, DC

Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Washington, DC

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin;

The recent Senate Appropriations Committee Markup of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education was a welcomed sign of bipartisanship. The support from both parties to fund Health and Human Services (HHS) and particularly the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) at current levels demonstrates the importance of CDC's NCEH to your fellow members and the American public.

The CDC's NCEH funds research and workforce development that supports the state, local, tribal and territorial environmental health agencies efforts to combat emerging and continuing environmental health threats.

State, local, tribal and territorial environmental health agencies rely on the services that NCEH provides to ensure that every community has a safe, healthful environment.

As Congress moves forward with the fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations process, our association would like to emphasize the critical importance of efforts performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) that enable state and local environmental health agencies to provide a safe, healthful environment for your constituents.

CDC's NCEH addresses emerging environmental health risks and responds to environmental health emergencies by developing tools, guidance, and trainings; disseminating best practices; and providing expertise and requested technical assistance on environmental health concerns. CDC provides expertise and guidance relied on by other federal, state, tribal, local, and territorial

partners, including extreme heat, wildfires and hurricanes; cancer cluster investigations; chemical exposures related to the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio; potential chemical, radiological, nuclear, or explosive mass casualty events; and safe drinking and recreation waters that are free from contaminants that can cause waterborne illness.

The Committee expects agencies to submit any reprogramming or transfer requests in compliance with requirements of this act and to provide a thorough explanation of the proposed reallocations, including a detailed justification of increases and reductions. The Committee expects each agency to manage the expenditures of its programs and activities to remain within the amounts appropriated by Congress.

The Senate Appropriators' adoption of an HHS budget to maintain funding for CDC's NCEH at \$242.8 million ensures that every state, local, tribal and territorial environmental health agency has the direction and guidance from its federal partner to ensure this country has a safe, healthful environment for all its residents.

On behalf of NEHA and state, local, tribal, and territorial environmental health agencies in general, please support this modest request to ensure communities in this country remain safe from environmental health threats.

If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Government Affairs Doug Farquhar at dfarquhar@neha.org.

In health,



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