

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subject: Urging Reconsideration of Policy Changes That Threaten Public Health, the Environment, and Economic Stability

Dear Senators Cruz, Cantwell, Capito, and Whitehouse,

We, the undersigned, are expressing our serious concerns about actions that are being initiated and plans that are being developed that will undo decades of work advancing science and policies supporting environmental quality. We are specifically referencing research funding cuts, workforce reductions in key agencies, and the planned dismantling of critical environmental regulations. These moves will not only impact public health and wellbeing, but they will subsequently seriously damage the U.S. economy. These changes will impact the ability of U.S. businesses to compete in global value chains and ruin the U.S.'s reputation as a leader in environmental sciences. A loss of funds and workforce at the federal level will also result in declining public trust and will have negative ramifications for the U.S. society and economy. In the strongest of terms, we recommend against implementing such actions to avoid their detrimental impacts.

We are extremely concerned by the current plans of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administration to dismantle 31 environmental regulations in what it described as the “[Biggest Deregulatory Action in U.S. History](#).” Deregulations at the federal level shift the burden to states and complicates the ability of industry to conduct business, which is inherently inefficient and will derail progress on environmental issues across the U.S. These plans also include eliminating EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and more than 1,000 dedicated employees. This will limit the ability of the U.S. to lead the world in terms of environmental management as these roles are critical in terms of protecting the health of all people living in the U.S. and are also critical in terms of allowing U.S. business interests to remain globally competitive. Plainly stated, if the EPA is not at the table in global environmental policy discussions, other voices will fill the void, placing U.S. businesses at risk. For decades, EPA ORD employees have worked collaboratively with scientists and professionals from other sectors, most notably the U.S. business sectors, to advance the science that informed many environmental regulations in the U.S. and around the world, which not only fueled the economy but also supported clean water and a healthy environment.

The recent research funding cut and workforce reductions across all federal agencies raise significant concerns about the future of evidence-based policymaking and environmental and public health protection. This is particularly alarming in agencies that perform vital information gathering, management, and other functions that support U.S. taxpayer's investments. The EPA, as well as many other agencies – including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) –play a critical role in protecting our environment and public health. Some of the most important functions in this regard include preserving our soil, air and water, forecasting and mitigating natural disasters, and enforcing laws and regulations for public and environmental health

protection. They accomplish this by delivering sound and impartial science to resource managers, emergency response teams, and the public. Weakening these agencies will be devastating for our environment and for the health of our communities and equally to the economy. Moreover, the indifference shown to public environmental scientists and managers, who have dedicated their careers to ensure public health, ultimately hurts all citizens. It is also especially disheartening for students and early career scientists who had planned to dedicate their life to meeting environmental challenges and ensuring a better future for all of us.

We urge the reconsideration of plans that would weaken the United States' ability to protect human and environmental health, erode public trust, and harm the environment, its people, and the economy in the process.

Sincerely,

Professional Societies

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry of North America
American Geophysical Union
American Industrial Hygiene Association
American Society for Cell Biology
American Society for Microbiology
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
Ecological Society of America
Endocrine Society
Society of Entomology
Society of Toxicology

Nonprofit Organizations

Hackensack Riverkeeper
International Zinc Association
Shaw Institute

Businesses

Applied Ecological Solutions
Bio-Analytical Laboratories
Innovative Omics
Metiri Group
Meyer EPS, Inc.
Safer Chemistry Advisory LLC
Samudia Engineering Co Ltd
SEA Environmental Decisions, Ltd.
Southern Cloud Accounting LLC
TerraGraphics International Foundation (TIFO)
Tetra Tech, Inc
Vernal Pool Partners
Yates Environmental Sciences Inc

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