

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy:

We write to express our strong objection and opposition to President Trump's FY2019 budget request for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The President's budget proposes a dangerous funding cut of 23 percent, and over 20 percent reduction in EPA federal employees, which includes nearly 1,200 veterans.

We urge you to reject this proposal, and provide the EPA the funding and staffing levels that ensure the agency can fulfill its mission to protect the environment, reduce pollution, and safeguard public health.

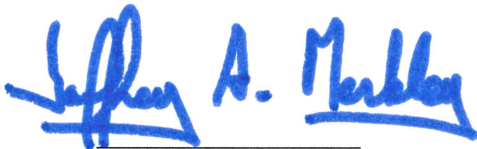
The President's budget dangerously and recklessly ignores the overwhelming scientific consensus on the need to urgently address climate change by defunding almost every climate monitoring and mitigation program. The budget also abandons a requisite function of the EPA to hold polluters accountable by cutting Civil and Criminal Enforcement by a total of nearly \$35 million. Overall, the budget would eliminate or drastically reduce the following programs:

- Cuts State & Tribal Assistance Grants and Categorical Grants by 47%
- Cuts Office of Inspector General by 12%, including a \$14 million cut to compliance monitoring
- Cuts Clean Air programs by \$349 million
- Eliminates Global Climate Change Research
- Cuts Research and Development by 48%
- Eliminates Endocrine Disruptors research Grants
- Cuts the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant program by 75%
- Cuts the Integrated Risk Information System for chemical safety by nearly 50%
- Eliminates a majority of Geographic Programs, including the Long Island Sound, San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound, the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Champlain and the Southeast New England Program, while reducing funding for the Great Lakes Restoration and Chesapeake Bay by 90%
- Eliminates Environmental Justice programs
- Eliminates the Targeted Airshed Grants
- Eliminates the Lead Risk Reduction Program
- Eliminates the Pollution Prevention Program

It is clear that President Trump's FY2019 budget would undermine EPA's principal functions and destabilize state budgets that rely on EPA grants and technical assistance for pollution and toxin controls, environmental remediation and monitoring, and public health initiatives.

This is not a vision of the EPA that we or the American people can support. We must ensure that the EPA receive the funding and staffing needed to protect vital public health and environment protections. We urge you to oppose these drastic and dangerous cuts, and support robust funding for the EPA in the FY2019 appropriations process.

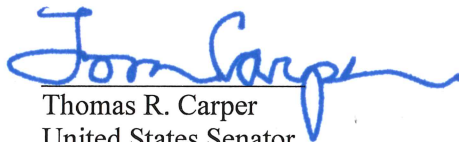
Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



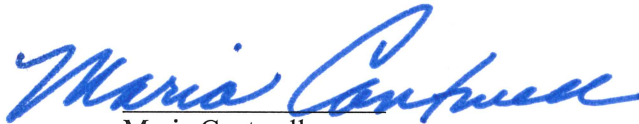
Tom Udall
United States Senator



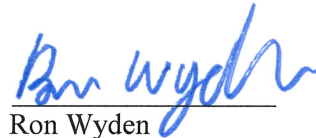
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



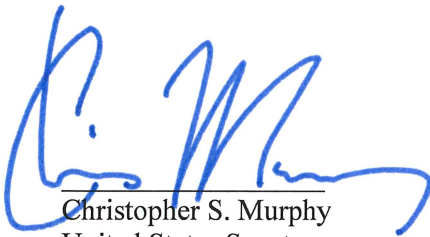
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



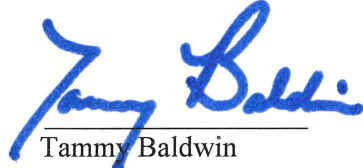
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



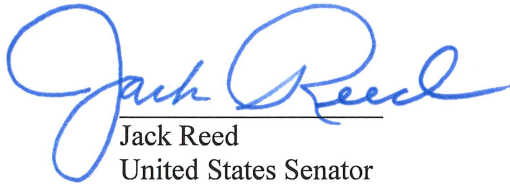
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



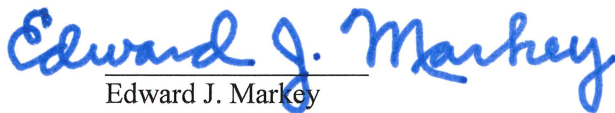
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



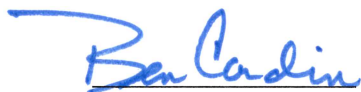
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



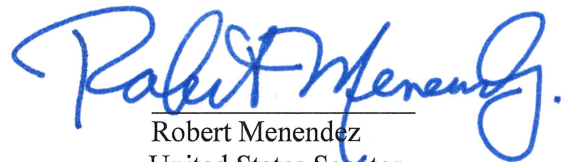
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



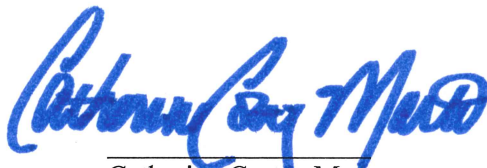
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator



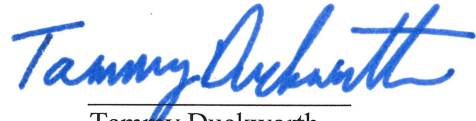
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



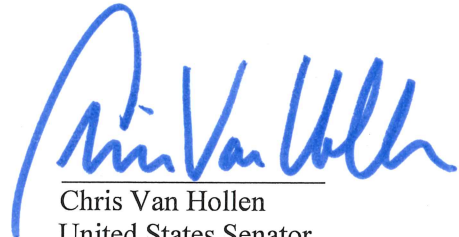
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



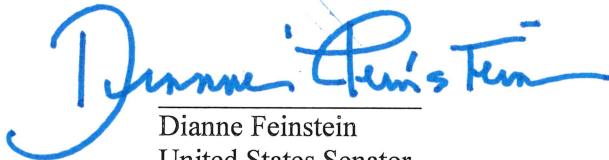
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



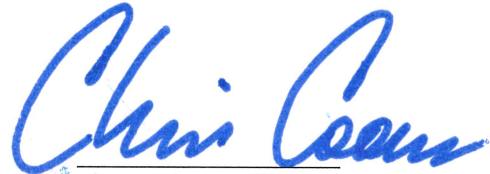
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



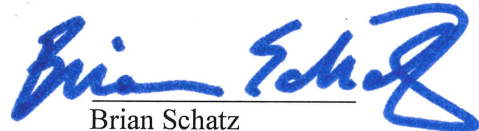
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



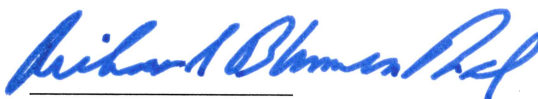
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



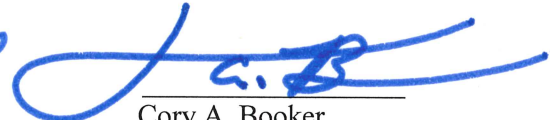
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



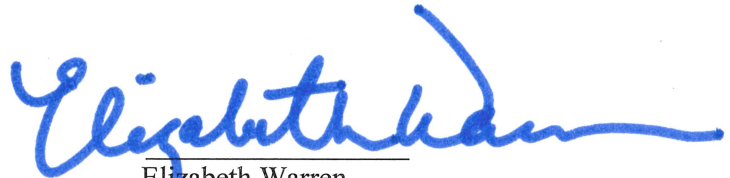
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



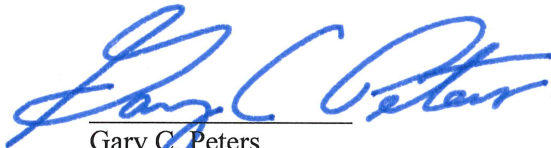
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



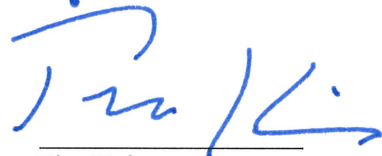
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator