

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We write to express our strong objection and opposition to President Trump's FY2020 budget request for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The President's budget once again proposes a dangerous funding cut of 31 percent, and an over 13 percent reduction in the EPA workforce, even as we learn that vital work is delayed due to staffing and resource constraints.

We urge you to reject this proposal and provide EPA the funding and staffing levels necessary to 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 over \$24 million. Overall, the budget would eliminate or drastically reduce funding for the following programs, among many others:

- Cuts the Office of Inspector General by 6%;
- Cuts compliance monitoring by \$12 million;
- Cuts State and Tribal Assistance Grants and Categorical Grants by \$1.5 billion;
- Cuts the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) by a total of \$875 million, or 31%;
- Cuts Clean Air programs by over \$146 million;
- Eliminates Global Climate Change Research;
- Cuts Environmental Justice by 59%;
- Eliminates the Categorical Grants for Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319), Beaches Protection, and Lead;
- Eliminates the Lead Risk Reduction Program, as well as the State and Tribal Assistance Grants for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water;

- Cuts lending through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund by \$3.1 billion;
- Cuts Science and Technology funding by over \$243 million;
- Eliminates the Endocrine Disruptors Screening Program (EDSP);
- Cuts the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant program by 89%;
- Cuts the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) by 57%;
- Eliminates a majority of Geographic Programs, including the Long Island Sound, San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound, the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Champlain, the Southeast New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program, and the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program;
- Cuts the Great Lakes Restoration and Chesapeake Bay Geographic Programs by 90%;
- Eliminates the Targeted Airshed Grants;
- Eliminates the Marine Pollution Program; and
- Eliminates the Pollution Prevention Program.

It is clear that President Trump's FY2020 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 nor the American people can support, which is why Congress has rejected the Administration's drastic budget proposals in the past. We must ensure that EPA receives the funding and staffing necessary to protect vital public health and environment protections. We urge you to oppose these drastic cuts and support robust funding for EPA in the FY2020 appropriations process.

Sincerely,




Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



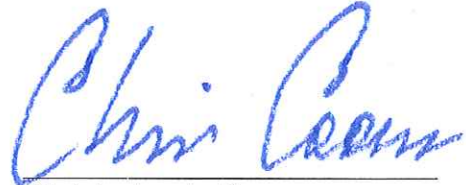
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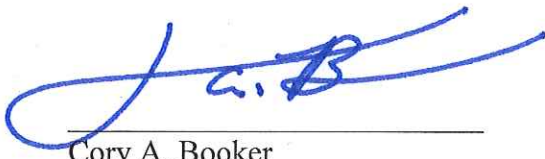
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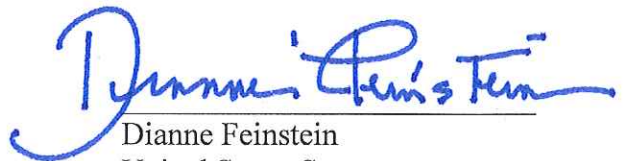
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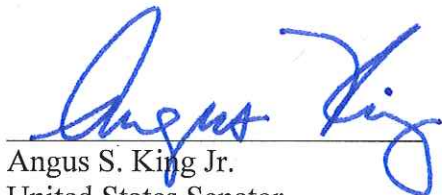
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Margaret Wood Hassan
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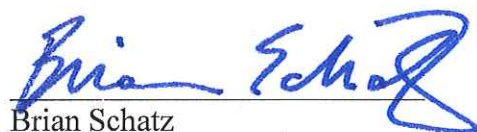

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