

July 12, 2018

Members of the New York State Congressional Delegation,

We write to you today to express our strong opposition to President Trump's FY2018-2019 budget and its severe funding cuts to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). By calling for EPA's operating funds to be slashed by 25%, the Trump administration has once again shown its disregard for keeping our communities healthy and our kids safe. We urge you to support a budget increase for EPA, so that the agency has the necessary resources to protect public health and the environment.

In last year's budget negotiations, members of Congress from both parties rejected similarly nonsensical cuts to EPA and secured stable levels of funding for essential programs. We appreciate the powerful advocacy of those members and we look forward to building on that success. EPA funding has been stagnant for far too long, and given the current climate crisis, clean air and water protections must receive increased investments.

Yet this budget does the opposite, leaving ordinary New Yorkers to bear the cost of ever-greater levels of industrial pollution. The proposed reductions to EPA funding would have the same substantial result as the cuts proposed in Trump's FY2017-2018 budget: a decimated agency without the resources or capacity to fulfill its duties to the American people.

The level of EPA funding has real, on-the-ground effects here in New York State. Listed below are just a few of the numerous ways New Yorkers would be harmed by these dangerous cuts:

- State and tribal assistance grants slashed by 45%: Roughly one-fifth of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's operating budget relies on federal funding. These cuts would prevent DEC from fulfilling many of the tasks we take for granted, especially the permitting, implementation, and enforcement that New Yorkers rely on to keep their air and water free from contaminants.
- Huge cuts to Great Lakes and Long Island Sound programs: Trump's budget would reduce funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by 90 percent and would eliminate the Long Island Sound cleanup program. Both of these programs have been widely-acclaimed for removing pollution, benefiting local economies, and promoting clean drinking water.
- Environmental justice programs gutted: Low-income communities and communities of color in New York would suffer the most under Trump's reckless budget cuts. Shockingly, this budget ignores the recent tragedy in Flint, Michigan and eliminates all funding for the Lead Risk Reduction Program, leaving more children, especially in communities of color, vulnerable to lead poisoning. Many other programs intended to rectify environmental injustices would see cuts as well, including radon detection in homes, brownfield cleanup, and monitoring of underground tanks leaking hazardous chemicals. We need greater investment, not less, in programs designed to ensure that everyone has access to a safe and healthy environment.
- Denying climate science: Trump's budget would eliminate dozens of programs that fight climate change by reducing funding for the Office of Science and Technology by more

than a third. New Yorkers have already been deeply affected by climate change, facing hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters more severe and frequent than ever before. By denying the climate crisis, this budget literally puts the lives of New Yorkers in jeopardy.

Members of Congress from both parties have recognized the value and importance of the EPA in New York State and across the nation. Your leadership will be essential to pushing back against these dangerous cuts and securing a budget increase for EPA, so that all New Yorkers can enjoy clean water, air, and land. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

14th Street Y CSA
350Brooklyn
Acadia Center
Adirondack Council
Adirondack Mountain Club
Advocates for Springfield
Big Reuse
Brooklyn Bridge CSA
Broome Tioga Green Party
Campaign for Renewable Energy
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Center for Food Safety
Central Park West CSA
Church Women United in New York State
Citizen Action of New York
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Citizens for Local Power
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Climate Justice
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline NJ
Commission on the Public's Health System
Community Advocates for Sustainable Energy
(CASE)
Concerned Citizens of Otego
Concerned Residents of Oxford
Demos
Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Elders Climate Action
Empire State Consumer Project
Empire State Indivisible

Empire State Progressives
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Advocates of New York
Environmental Justice Task Force of the WNY
Peace Center
Environmental Stewardship Committee - NY
Society for Ethical Culture
Evergreen Audubon
First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn
Flatbush Food Co-op
Food & Water Watch
Fossil Free Tompkins
Gas Free Seneca
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Green Science Policy Institute
Greenpeace
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
iEat Green
Interfaith Climate Justice Community
LI Clean Air Water & Soil
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Lower East Side Ecology Center
Marist College SEED Club
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club, Inc.
New York Communities for Change (NYCC)
New York Heartwoods
New York Interfaith Power & Light
New York State Nurses Association
New York Working Families

North American Climate, Conservation and Environment
 North Shore Audubon Society
 Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)
 Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
 Nurse Rise Nurses for Safe Water
 NY Lawyers for the Public Interest
 NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
 NYC Friends of Clearwater
 NYC H2O
 NYC-DSA Climate Justice Working Group
 NYCD16 Indivisible Environment Committee
 NYPAN Enviro Committee
 NYPAN Greene
 NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes
 NYPIRG
 NYS Division, Izaak Walton League of America
 Operation SPLASH
 Peace Action Manhattan
 Peace Action of Staten Island
 Peconic Baykeeper
 Peoples Climate Movement NY
 Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) - New York Chapter
 Protecting Our Waters
 Pugh Farms Poultry
 Queens Action Council
 Radiation Truth
 RDC Social Justice Board
 Reach Out America
 Riverkeeper
 Religious Organizations along the River (ROAR)
 Rochester Defense Against Fracking
 Rochester People's Climate Coalition
 ROCitizen
 ROSA 4 Rockland
 Sacred River Healing
 Safe Energy Rights Group, Inc.
 SAPE
 Save EPA
 Save The River / Upper St. Lawrence
 Riverkeeper
 Save the Sound
 Seafood Commons
 Second Wind CSA
 Seneca Lake Guardian
 ShaleshockCNY
 Show Up LI
 Sierra Club
 Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
 Sisters of the Divine Compassion (RDC)
 Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Slow Food North Shore
 South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
 South Shore Audubon Society
 Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
 Surfrider Foundation NYC
 Sustainable Warwick
 The Bard Center for Environmental Policy
 The Climate Mobilization NYC
 The Village TeaRoom
 Three Parks Independent Democrats
 Tompkins County Climate Protection Climate Initiative
 United for Action
 Upper Green Side
 Ursulines of the Roman Union - Eastern Province
 Veterans for Peace - NYC Chapter 034
 WE ACT for Environmental Justice
 WeatherMedic Inc
 Wellness in the Schools
 WESPAC Foundation, Inc
 West Branch Conservation Association
 World Can't Wait
 Yoga for the Earth