

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515-0506

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Lee M. Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

It has been more than 50 years since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established under a Republican president with the mission to protect human health and the environment. For most of that history, the agency has worked hard to ensure that major polluters are kept in check so that our communities have access to clean air and clean water. In just two months as EPA Administrator, you have demonstrated a complete disregard for the central mission of the agency you were appointed to lead. Instead of protecting the environment – as the agency name directs – you are protecting the special interests of big polluters. We urge you to halt your egregious attacks on the public health and well-being of the American people.

Your announcement on March 12 to launch the “biggest deregulatory action in U.S. history” and overturn over 30 federal climate and health protections will come at a huge cost to the American people and our economy.¹ While you stated these rollbacks of protections had the goals of “Unleashing American Energy,” “Lowering the Cost of Living for American Families,” and “Advancing Cooperative Federalism,”² in reality your proposals will fail on each of these three counts.

You falsely proclaim that these rollbacks will unleash American energy but the only thing these actions will “unleash” is more pollution. As a result of these rollbacks, communities and families will be exposed to more mercury and air toxics from coal-fired power plants³, and more polluted wastewater from oil and gas producers.⁴ While countries around the world are clamoring for cleaner, cheaper, and more innovative technologies, you are actively hamstringing

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *EPA Launches Biggest Deregulatory Action in U.S. History* (March 12, 2025), <http://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-biggest-deregulatory-action-us-history>.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Our Mission and What We Do* (last accessed March 18, 2025), www.epa.gov/aboutepa/our-mission-and-what-we-do.

² *Id.*

³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Trump EPA to Reconsider Biden-Harris MATS Regulation That Targeted Coal-Fired Power Plants to be Shut Down* (March 12, 2025), <http://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-reconsider-biden-harris-mats-regulation-targeted-coal-fired-power-plants-be>.

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *EPA Will Revise Wastewater Regulations for Oil and Gas Extraction to Help Unleash American Energy* (March 12, 2025), <http://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-will-revise-wastewater-regulations-oil-and-gas-extraction-help-unleash-american>.

America's homegrown clean energy industry, which has already injected \$422 billion and 400,000 jobs into our economy in just the past two and a half years.⁵ This is anything but unleashing American energy.

At the same time, instead of lowering costs for American families, your actions will result in the opposite. Americans' medical expenses will increase because your Polluters First agenda will allow particulate matter and other hazardous air pollution to go unchecked. For every \$1 the country spends to reduce air pollution, it's estimated to yield \$30 in economic benefits in return.⁶ Yet, you chose to unleash more air pollutants that are linked to Alzheimer's,⁷ miscarriages,⁸ and childhood asthma,⁹ as well as other public health concerns. Your actions will needlessly increase American families' exposure to the pollution that can make them sick and stick them with the bill for their care.

By doing the bidding of the polluters, you are putting your thumb on the scale against cheaper and cleaner alternatives. At a time when utility bills are surging, your actions only serve to drive electricity prices higher. Similarly, your attacks on clean transportation will result in Americans forking over thousands of extra dollars to Big Oil in the form of increased fuel costs.

Lastly, your assault on rules limiting carbon pollution will drive grocery bills and homeowners and auto insurance premiums ever higher. Even the Chair of the Federal Reserve is warning that insurance – and mortgages – will become impossible to find in coastal and wildfire-exposed regions of the country.¹⁰

Then, in the guise of giving power back to the states, you are giving power to President Trump's big polluting donors, who are more than happy to find the state with the weakest environmental protection laws and pollute without consequence. The resulting air pollution does not care about state boundary lines, and neither do the American families whose health will suffer and whose bank accounts will be stretched.

The most flagrant lie of all was when you stated during your confirmation hearing that you would respect the science and "leave the science to the scientists," yet you have chosen to undertake a crusade against the fundamental scientific finding that planet-warming emissions are

⁵ Climate Power, *State of the Clean Energy Boom* (January 14, 2025), <https://climatepower.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/January-2025-Clean-Energy-Boom-Report.pdf>.

⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020, Final Report – Rev. A.* (April 2011), https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-07/documents/fullreport_rev_a.pdf

⁷ Xu Zhang, et. al., "S-Nitrosylation of CRT1 in Alzheimer's disease impairs CREB-dependent gene expression induced by neuronal activity," *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 122(9) e2418179122, (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2418179122>.

⁸ Youn Soo Jung, et. al., "Impact of air pollution exposure on cytokines and histone modification profiles at single-cell levels during pregnancy," *Sci. Adv.* 10, eadp5227 (2024) <http://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adp5227>.

⁹ Antonella Zanobetti, PhD, et. al., "Early-Life Exposure to Air Pollution and Childhood Asthma Cumulative Incidence in the ECHO CREW Consortium," *JAMA Netw Open* (2024) <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2815586>.

¹⁰ *The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress: Hearing Before the Sen. Comm. on Banking, Hous., and Urban Aff.*, 118th Cong. (Mar. 7, 2024) (statement of Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System), https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/powell_testimony_3-7-231.pdf.

a threat to the American public.¹¹ Your attempt to roll back the EPA’s landmark “Endangerment Finding” is the pinnacle of unscientific hubris.¹² It’s shocking that anyone in the year 2025 could look around and honestly say that climate change is not *already* harming Americans. Just look at the victims of the records-smashing Los Angeles wildfires¹³ or the residents of Asheville that are still cleaning up after Hurricane Helene.¹⁴ Trying to overturn the Endangerment Finding is simply the new face of a decades-long climate denial campaign that continues to threaten the health and prosperity of our children’s future. And your purported commitment to being guided by EPA’s talented scientists is belied by reports that you plan on firing more than 1,000 scientists, who are responsible for driving scientific research and progress at the agency.¹⁵

Sincerely,



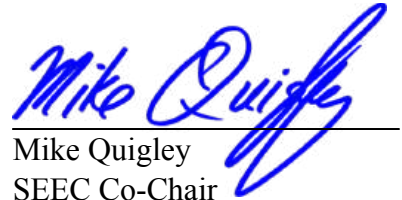
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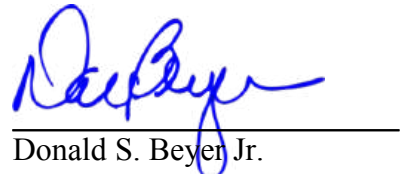
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¹¹ *Hearing on the Nomination of the Honorable Lee M. Zeldin to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency: Hearing Before the Sen. Comm. on Envir. & Public Works*, 119th Cong. (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2025/1/hearing-on-the-nomination-of-the-honorable-lee-m-zeldin-to-be-administrator-of-the-environmental-protection-agency>.


¹² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Trump EPA Kicks Off Formal Reconsideration of Endangerment Finding with Agency Partners*, (March 12, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-kicks-formal-reconsideration-endangerment-finding-agency-partners>.

¹³ Meryl Davids Landau, “Climate Change made the L.A. wildfires 35 percent more likely,” *National Geographic* (January 28, 2025) <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/climate-change-los-angeles-fire-wildfire>.


¹⁴ Alejandra Borunda & Rachel Waldholz, “Climate change made Helene more dangerous. It also makes similar storms more likely,” *NPR* (October 9, 2024), <http://www.npr.org/2024/10/09/nx-s1-5144216/climate-change-hurricane-helene>.


¹⁵ Lisa Friedman, “Trump Administration Aims to Eliminate E.P.A.’s Scientific Research Arm,” *The New York Times* (March 17, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/17/climate/trump-eliminates-epa-science.html>.



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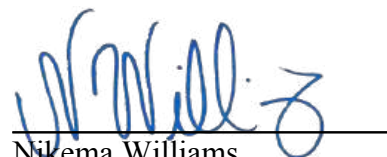

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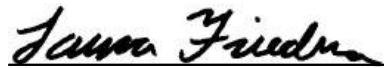
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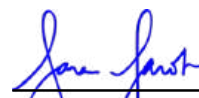
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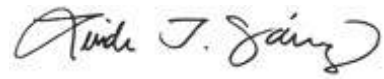
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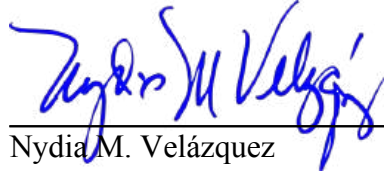
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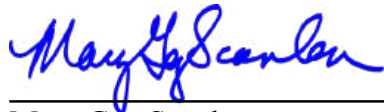
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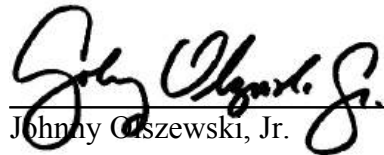
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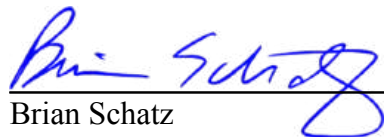
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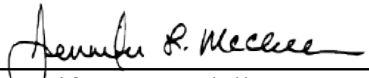
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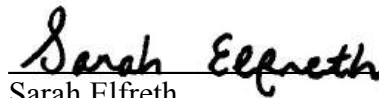
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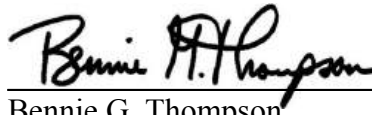
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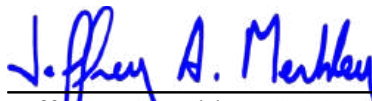
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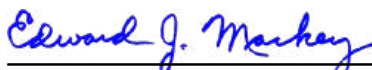
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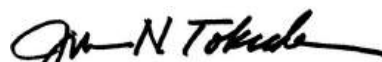
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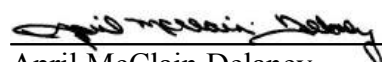
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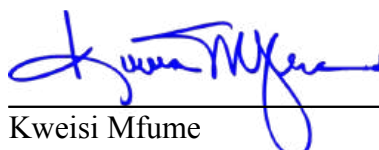
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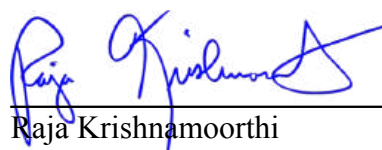
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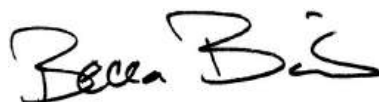
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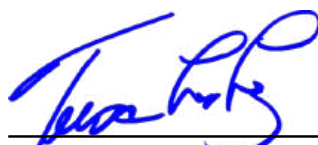
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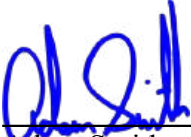
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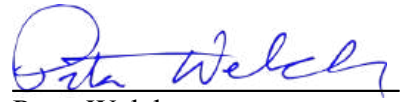
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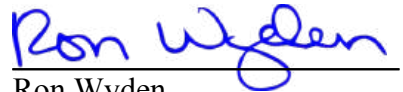
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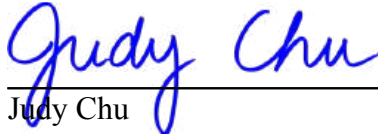
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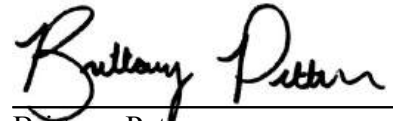
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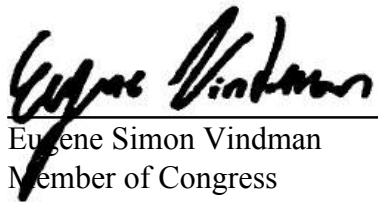
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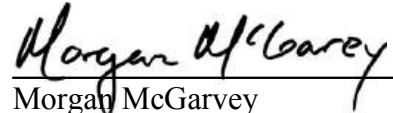
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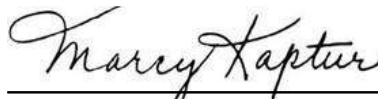
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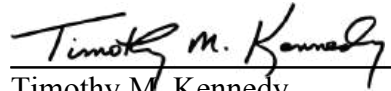
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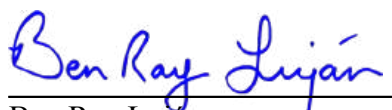
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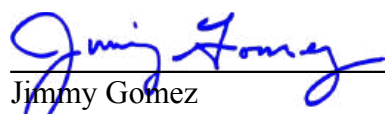
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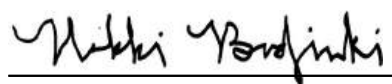
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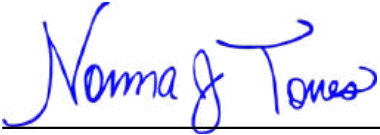
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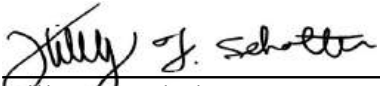
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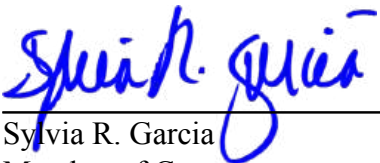
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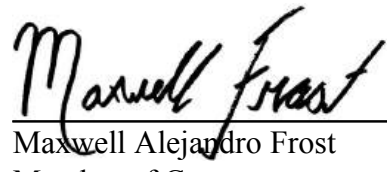
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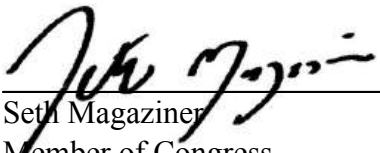
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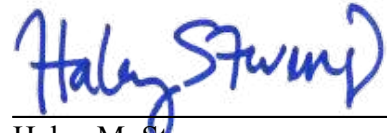
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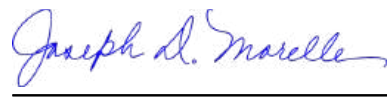
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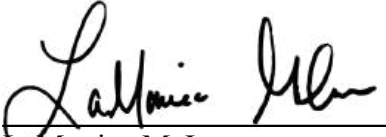
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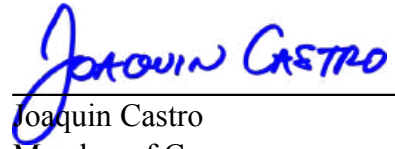
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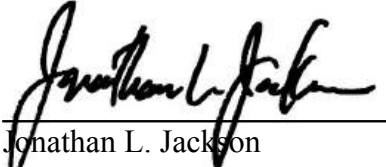
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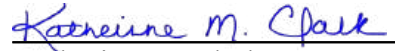
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Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



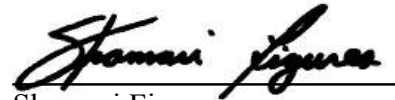
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



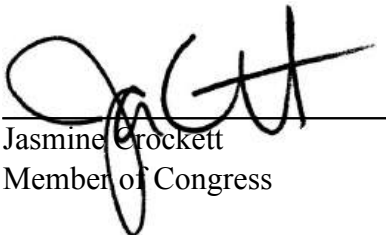
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



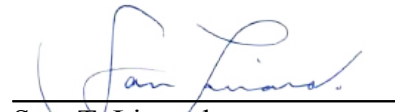
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Al Green
Member of Congress
Scion of the Enslaved
Africans -
Sacrificed to Make America
Great



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



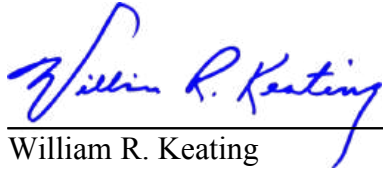
Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress