

Protecting and strengthening the EPA and its budget

The EPA is tasked with protecting American families and communities from pollution in their homes, air, water, and environment. The agency plays an essential role in providing Americans confidence that they can live and breathe free from pollution. However, the agency is under attack.

Since coming into office, the Trump administration has worked to slash EPA's already barebones budget, a move that would unleash polluters at the expense of children, communities, and America's most vulnerable populations. To date, Congress has rejected those massive cuts.

Still, America needs more. EPA remains historically underfunded and its staff levels have eroded under administration policies. It is time for Congress to stand up for EPA by rejecting the administration's ongoing attacks and fighting for a stronger EPA that can adequately protect Americans from the dangers of pollution.



Underfunded: EPA by the numbers

- EPA accounts for **just 0.2 percent**—about \$8 billion—of a nearly \$4 trillion federal budget, despite the role it plays in keeping Americans safe and healthy.
- Adjusting for inflation, the agency's 2018 budget was more than **\$10 billion less** than it was almost 40 years ago in 1979, despite several added responsibilities and large growth in our economy and population.
- Inspections and evaluations of potential polluting facilities carried out by the agency reached their **lowest level in a decade**, half the number EPA conducted at its peak in 2010.
- EPA charged **105 polluters** with environmental crimes in FY2018, the fewest in at least 18 years.
- Staff levels are down to approximately **14,000**, even **lower than the last year of the Reagan administration**. Since then, EPA's responsibilities have only grown, with several critical acts signed into law expanding the agency's duties, including: Clean Air Act Amendments, Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, and Brownfields Program.
- **125 million Americans** live in counties with unhealthy air.
- Up to **10 million homes** still get their drinking water through lead pipes.



President Trump's FY2020 budget would keep EPA from doing its job of protecting Americans

The Trump administration's federal budget proposal for the 2020 fiscal year reaffirmed for the third year in a row their misguided intent to undercut agencies and programs dedicated to protecting public health, the environment, and our climate.

The administration targeted EPA in particular for major reductions, singling it out for **the biggest percentage cut across the entire federal government**. In total, the administration proposed a greater than \$2.7-billion-dollar reduction to EPA. **That is a 31% cut** to an agency that is already struggling to function with a historically low, bare-bones budget.

With nearly every EPA program under attack, the proposal brings renewed light to the administration's dangerous stance toward EPA and the work the agency performs keeping the American people safe and healthy.

Public health on the chopping block

The administration has targeted several programs that families and communities rely on to keep air and water clean, to protect against toxic chemicals, and curb climate change. Those programs include:

- Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Program: *Eliminated*
- Lead-based Paint Risk Reduction Program grants: *Eliminated*
- Lead Testing in Schools: *Cut 50%*
- Superfund: *Cut 15%*
- Science & Technology: *Cut 35%*

Putting the squeeze on states and localities

Many states and communities get a significant amount of their public health and environmental funding through grants administered by EPA. The Trump administration wants to do away with many of them entirely while calling for crippling cuts to others. Those programs include:

- Gulf of Mexico geographic program: *Eliminated*
- Lake Champlain geographic program: *Eliminated*
- Long Island Sound geographic program: *Eliminated*
- South Florida geographic program: *Eliminated*
- San Francisco Bay geographic program: *Eliminated*
- Puget Sound geographic program: *Eliminated*
- Beaches Protection: *Eliminated*
- Pollution Prevention: *Eliminated*
- Chesapeake Bay Program: *Cut 90%*
- Great Lakes Restoration: *Cut 90%*
- Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance: *Cut 33%*
- State and Local Air Quality Management: *Cut 33%*
- State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Total: *Cut 34%*



What is needed: Raised caps, increased funds

Going forward Congress should **increase EPA's funding at a level commensurate with the average budget increases across agencies dedicated to America's health and safety** so that the agency can successfully carry out its mission.