



## Hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency would threaten Pennsylvania's health, families, jobs and economy

Support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is essential to protecting Pennsylvania's air, water, and land. From safeguarding waterways from dangerous runoff to cleaning up toxic sites, EPA grants provided the state with more than \$660 million in funding from 2012 to 2016. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration and many Members of Congress are working to hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s, posing threats to millions of Pennsylvanians who depend on the agency to protect their health and the state's tourism and business climate.

EPA's budget will be negotiated in a backroom by a President and EPA Administrator who have laid out a roadmap to cripple the EPA, along with many Congressional leaders who have shown little interest in protecting environmental safeguards. The EPA's budget could be bargained away in the blink of an eye, and Pennsylvanians could be the losers.

### Environment and public health are at risk

#### More dangerous runoff in the water

##### Program at Risk: Nonpoint source pollution program grants. Proposed cut: Eliminated

Runoff, sometimes called "Nonpoint Source Pollution," is the leading cause of water quality problems in the United States. It comes when rainwater washes over areas containing contaminants such as industrial waste, agricultural pesticides or lawn-treatment chemicals, and gets into surface water, ground water, or soil.

8.2 million Pennsylvanians rely on surface waters such as headwater, rain-fed, and seasonal streams for their drinking water. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection estimates that EPA-funded projects in 2015 helped prevent 17 million pounds of nitrogen, 600,000 pounds of phosphorus and 20,000 tons of sediment from damaging Pennsylvania waters each year.

#### Fewer cleanups and less economic development at polluted properties

##### Program at Risk: Brownfield grants

##### Proposed cut: 28%

Brownfield sites are properties where contamination prevents economic development and threatens public health and safety. But they have the potential – once cleaned up – to generate new jobs. Research has shown that residential property values near restored brownfield sites around the country have increased between 5 and 15 percent and can increase property values in a 1.24-mile radius of that site. A study analyzing data near 48 brownfield sites shows an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup (two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to cleaning up those brownfield sites). EPA brownfield grants have even greater positive impacts on communities with higher poverty rates, large minority populations, and lower than average incomes.

Pennsylvania has more than 800 brownfield sites where hazardous pollution prevents economic development and threatens public health. For two decades, EPA brownfield grants have helped Pennsylvania communities clean up polluted properties to protect health and to spark job-creating economic redevelopment. These grants, totaling \$17 million from 2012-2016, have helped catalyze private sector loans and other funding to clean up contamination from leaking petroleum tanks, metals, and other hazardous substances.

\* FY12-16 funding totals obtained from <https://www.usaspending.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

## The enemy underground: leaking underground storage tank grants

**Program at Risk: Leaking underground storage tank categorical grants. Proposed cut: Eliminated**

Across the country, thousands of underground storage tanks and accompanying pipes — many of them made from older corroding steel — hold and carry a variety of fuels and chemicals. When tanks leak harmful chemicals such as oil, gas, benzene and toluene into soil and ground water, drinking water and soil are fouled, community health is jeopardized, and economic development is crippled. Preventing and addressing spills from these backlogs is a major environmental priority.

Pennsylvania has a backlog of more than 1,800 leaking underground tanks in need of cleanup and, from 2012 to 2016, the state received more than \$10.9 million in EPA grant funding to assist in leaking underground storage tank cleanup. From October 2015 through September 2016, there were 192 potentially hazardous leaks in the state. EPA support is essential to Pennsylvania programs to monitor underground storage tanks, detect leaks of petroleum products, address the causes, repair any damage to soil or groundwater and hold polluters accountable for paying their fair share of cleanup costs.

## More Code Red days

**Program at Risk: State and Local Air Quality Management Grants/Tribal Air Quality Management Grants  
Proposed cut: 33% | 30%**

For decades, Clean Air Act and EPA grants have helped states and communities make historic strides in reducing air pollution, with EPA grants covering almost 30 percent of state and local air monitoring costs. An estimated 3,441 Pennsylvanians are saved every year by EPA programs cutting air pollution and toxic mercury. EPA standards to reduce dangerous air pollution and toxic mercury from power plants in Pennsylvania were designed to create \$4.4 billion in health benefits last year for the state.

Since 2012, EPA has provided more than \$39 million in grants to local governments in Pennsylvania — third highest in the nation — to support their air pollution control efforts, including monitoring of harmful particulates, ozone, lead and other pollutants. EPA grants for air pollution programs have gone to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and to authorities in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties to support local clean air efforts in metropolitan areas where air quality problems can be the most severe.

## Dirtier rivers and streams

**Program at Risk: Chesapeake Bay Program. Proposed cut: 90%**

While Pennsylvania does not have any shoreline on the Chesapeake Bay, which has been plagued for decades by impaired water quality, more than one-third of the Chesapeake watershed — the area that drains into the Bay — is in Pennsylvania via the Susquehanna River, the Chesapeake's largest tributary. EPA's Chesapeake Bay program provided Pennsylvania with \$34.3 million in funding from 2012 to 2016, to help improve water quality for the Susquehanna and the streams that flow into it. This has benefitted not only the Pennsylvanians who depend on these waters for drinking, recreation and commerce, but residents and communities across the entire region. Chesapeake Bay program grants support a unique regional effort to protect one of the nation's most important resources: the Chesapeake and the lands and waters that feed into it. EPA grants are assisting Pennsylvania's efforts to educate farmers and help reduce the flow of harmful agricultural chemicals into creeks, streams and rivers that flow into the Bay; to monitor and assess water quality in the state's waterways; and to conduct sophisticated modeling analyses that help the state determine where to initiate projects that can be most effective in limiting pollution.

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