

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt :

I am writing to express my concern about the impacts of substantial cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the citizens and businesses of Pennsylvania. Slashing the EPA budget — including a potential 30% reduction in the funding we use to carry out responsibilities under federal environmental laws — would have an immediate and devastating effect on my state's ability to ensure that Pennsylvania's air is safe to breathe, our water is safe to drink, and our economy prospers. Put simply, cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency signal the Trump administration's disregard for its responsibility to protect the health and safety of American citizens.

The Pennsylvania Department Environmental Protection (DEP) relies on federal funding to administer a variety of mandated programs which protect the safety of coal miners, address lead contamination, prevent air pollution which contributes to respiratory diseases, and redevelop contaminated industrial sites. Over the past decade, DEP has worked to further its mission, even as constrained state and federal budgets have allowed for fewer inspections and created significant permitting backlogs.

A 30% cut in federal funding would significantly reduce popular, successful, bipartisan programs that protect public health and the environment, and lead to economic development. Cutting these programs will:

- **Risk safe water.** In the Safe Drinking Water program, these cuts would mean at least 30% fewer inspections at the commonwealth's 8,500 public water systems, hampering our ability to detect contaminants like lead, water-borne pathogens, and putting Pennsylvania's 10.7 million water customers at risk.
- **Diminish local water quality.** The proposed cuts to the federally funded portion of the Clean Water Bureau budget would mean cutting at least 850 inspections from the 6,144 inspections that ensure that sewage plants, industrial wastewater discharges, and construction sites are not threatening the water quality of Pennsylvanians downstream. Reductions in federal funds will also lengthen permit issuance timelines, hampering important economic development projects in Pennsylvania.
- **Abandon farmers.** Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay program — which you recently acknowledged as a model of federal/state partnerships, and is starting to show real results in curbing pollution to the Bay — would see funding completely eliminated. This

Secretary