

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave.
NW Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

As representatives from states served by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, we write to express our profound concern about the potential immediate termination of more than 1,100 EPA employees, many based in our districts, as well as the impact this could have on public health and our environment.

Reports indicate that EPA staff members have received emails informing them of possible immediate dismissal because of their probationary status related to their introductory period in their position. The probationary staff includes grant managers, inspectors, enforcement officers, attorneys, on-scene coordinators, permit reviewers, and emergency response personnel. We are deeply concerned about the negative impacts such terminations—done across the board without consideration for positional need or programmatic impact—would have on the agency's ability to protect public health and the environment in Region 6 and across the nation.

Though they are probationary, many of these employees are long-standing federal workers and subject matter experts with experience vital to running the EPA effectively and efficiently. They perform critical functions protecting Americans from dangers related to pesticides, waste management, chemical control, air pollution, and ground and drinking water. They are essential to the EPA's mission and the well-being of our constituents.

Additionally, we are deeply concerned about reports that there are now no National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Permit reviewers left in the region, nor a children's health coordinator, as they were placed on Administrative Leave on February 7, 2025. The potential dismissal of employees based out of the EPA Region 6 Office in Dallas threatens the health and safety of communities in our states. Specifically, Texas houses EPA workers across the state, with the Region VI headquarters in Dallas, a Houston laboratory, and an El Paso Border Office. Sufficient agency permitting staffing and resources are critical for a timely and predictable permitting process. EPA employs these highly specialized individuals to do important, nonpartisan work that American businesses rely on. Businesses need to be able to trust this process before investing in our communities, and when the process is left in disarray, our communities are left behind. As a hub for transportation, infrastructure, and energy, we need these workers to be employed and actively doing their jobs.

In light of these concerns, we request that you reconsider any plans to terminate probationary EPA employees and reinstate those placed on administrative leave. We urge you to consider the critical importance of these workers to the EPA's mission and the potential adverse effects these terminations would have on the public health and environment of the American people.

Sincerely,



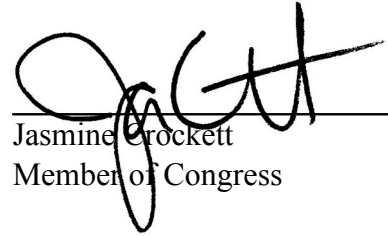
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



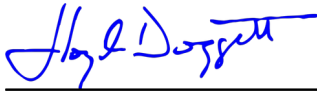
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



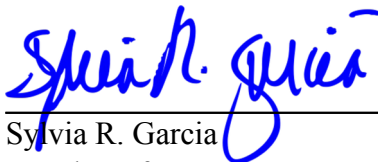
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



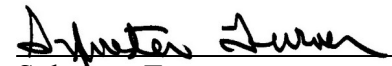
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



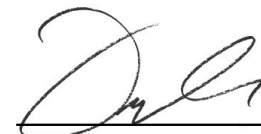
Al Green
Member of Congress
Scion of the Enslaved Africans -
Sacrificed to Make America Great



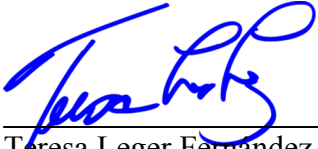
Sylvester Turner
Member of Congress



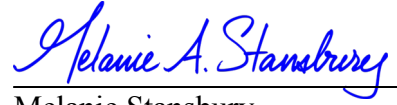
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress