

Tell Congresswoman Comstock To Oppose Trump's EPA Budget Cuts That Would Threaten Our Health and Environment

The Environmental Protection Agency has worked for decades to protect public health and the environment, cleaning up our air, water, and land as our economy has continued to grow. But now the Trump administration is [proposing](#) deep cuts to the EPA's budget, including the [\\$85.1 million in EPA grants](#) that Virginia received last year. If President Trump succeeds in his plan to cut EPA's budget by almost one-third, we'll face a future with more asthma attacks among children, more toxic pollution in our communities, and more lead in our drinking water.

How would Trump's EPA budget cuts affect us?

EPA protects our air

- More than [318,000 adults and 102,000 children](#) in Virginia have been diagnosed with asthma. Asthma was responsible for [over 7,500 hospitalizations](#) in Virginia in 2014, at a cost of over \$156 million. EPA is responsible for implementing clean air safeguards designed to prevent [up to 850,000 asthma attacks](#) across the country every year.
- EPA's [longstanding work](#) to cut smog pollution has helped reduce the occurrence of "[Code Red](#)" days – when air pollution is so bad that people are advised not to spend time outside. **EPA grants cover over 25% of state and local air quality monitoring costs, but one-third of that funding would disappear under the Trump budget.**

EPA protects our water

- [Over 2.3 million Virginians](#) rely on surface waters for drinking. EPA helps deal with "[runoff](#)" pollution that drains into those waterways, including fertilizers and insecticides, grease and toxic chemicals from energy production, acid drainage from abandoned mines, and bacteria and nutrients from livestock, and faulty septic systems. **EPA provided Virginia with \$3.2 million to help protect its surface water in FY 2016, but the Trump administration would eliminate that funding. Trump's budget would even eliminate the EPA [program](#) that is responsible for restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.**

EPA protects us from lead poisoning

- Over five decades, EPA has worked to stop the use of lead in gasoline, paint, plumbing pipes, and soil, reducing the amount of lead in Americans' blood by [more than 90%](#) since the mid-1970s. But [more than a million kids](#), disproportionately in low-income communities of color, still have elevated levels of lead in their blood, as the crisis in Flint, MI reminded us. **Trump's budget would eliminate the EPA's Lead Risk Reduction Program, cut millions of dollars from the Children's Health program, and do away with the Environmental Justice program that seeks to ensure our environmental laws don't discriminate based on race, ethnicity, or income level.**

EPA cleans up toxic wastelands

- EPA is responsible for cleaning up the most polluted areas in the country, known as [Superfund sites](#), which contain toxic waste and other hazardous materials. EPA also [provides support](#) for states and local communities to clean up polluted sites called brownfields so that they can be used or redeveloped, spurring economic growth.
- There are [31 Superfund sites](#) and [193 brownfields](#) in Virginia, including [two Superfund sites](#) and [11 brownfields](#) in Congresswoman Comstock's Congressional district. **Yet the Trump administration has proposed slashing [more than a third](#) of the funding for Superfund enforcement and cutting funding to states for the brownfields program by [30 percent](#). Trump also wants to cut funding that ensures Americans are told which toxic chemicals are in their communities, and eliminate the board that investigates chemical industry accidents.**

Call Congresswoman Comstock at 202-225-5136
