



NCEL

National Caucus of
Environmental Legislators

Susan Bodine

Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: EPA's Announcement to Suspend Regulatory Compliance During the COVID-19
Pandemic

Dear Assistant Administrator Bodine:

On behalf of the 281 undersigned state legislators, we urge you to reconsider your decision to suspend the enforcement of critical environmental regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our communities rely on these regulations and enforcements for clean air and water. This unprecedented decision will cause further, lasting harm to communities in our states that are already hurting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

As representatives of residents in 40 states, we understand the vital need to protect the clean air and water of our constituents. We know the hard decisions that must be made to protect human health. This includes holding dischargers accountable to ensure access to clean air, clean water, and safe, healthy outdoor space.

While COVID-19 threatens the health and safety of many around the country, it is the vulnerable populations in our communities that are most at risk. These same groups are put more at risk by the EPA's reckless decision. We know that those [exposed to poor air quality](#) are more likely to die from complications from COVID-19. Low-income and vulnerable populations are [disproportionately impacted](#) by pollution sources. These sources are more likely to be located in low-income communities. These communities bear compounded health risks due to lack of access to medical facilities and treatment, fresh food, and jobs in healthy environments. It is unacceptable to suspend regulatory compliance and cause further harm to low-income and vulnerable populations during this crisis.

In addition to harming our vulnerable populations, the lack of compliance action from the EPA will degrade our environment at a time when the outdoors is one of the few escapes for the American people. As states and local governments follow or enhance the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, we are still encouraged to get outside and enjoy a

walk, run, or hike in nature. This suspension of EPA enforcement threatens our clean air at a time that it is essential for public health.

As we work each day to ensure our constituents have the means and resources to overcome this pandemic, we urge your agency to do the same and reconsider this dangerous decision. We fight every day to overcome the environmental inequities in our communities and we hope you will rejoin us in that fight.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

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Oregon

Representative Joel Briscoe
Utah

Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich
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Alaska

Representative Dan Ortiz
Alaska

Representative Geran Tarr
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Representative Mitzi Epstein
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Representative Rosanna Gabaldon
Arizona

Representative Alma Hernandez
Arizona

Representative Daniel Hernandez
Arizona

Senator Juan Mendez
Arizona

Representative Athena Salman
Arizona

Senator Ben Allen
California

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
California

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Representative Yadira Caraveo
Colorado

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Representative Lisa Cutter
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Senator Chris Hansen

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Representative Cathy Kipp
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Representative Mike Weissman
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Representative Steven Woodrow
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Connecticut

Representative Roland Lemar
Connecticut

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Hawaii

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Hawaii

Representative Nicole Lowen
Hawaii

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Representative Susan Lontine
Colorado

Representative Dafna Michelson Jenet
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Representative Kerry Tipper
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Representative Donald Valdez
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Hawaii

Senator Karl Rhoads
Hawaii

Representative Roy Takumi
Hawaii

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Hawaii

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Indiana

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New Hampshire

Representative Kat McGhee
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Assemblymember Raj Mukherji
New Jersey

Representative Georgene Louis
New Mexico

Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth
New Mexico

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Assemblymember Patricia Fahy
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Senator Brad Hoylman
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North Carolina

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Representative Karen Kwan
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Utah

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Utah

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Vermont

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