

**TESTIMONY OF  
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**BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

*May 13, 2026*

Thank you, Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Merkley, and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget Request for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

At the EPA under President Trump, we reject the false choice between protecting the environment and growing the economy. We can and must do both.

In January, marking one year of President Trump back in office, I announced 500 top environmental actions from our first year. These actions advance our core mission of protecting human health and the environment. Included in this list is the signing of our historic agreement with the Mexican government to end the decades-long Tijuana River sewage crisis. Highlights also include completing five-year reviews for 26 Superfund sites across New England and announcing \$3 billion in new funding for states to reduce lead exposure in drinking water.

In collaboration with EPA political and career leadership, our work to reorganize the agency workforce made it possible to achieve this milestone, continue to fulfill statutory obligations, protect human health and the environment, and Power the Great American Comeback.

To help inform our decisions, during my first 9.5 months as Administrator, I visited all 50 states. I sat with farmers, small business owners, and our energy providers who feed, support and fuel our country. They weren't asking for special treatment. They ask for clear rules and consistent enforcement. The Trump EPA wants to get it right when it comes to our rulemaking process so hardworking Americans can do their job without the threat of regulatory whiplash and federal overreach.

EPA has also been hard at work to create a durable and clear definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS), faithfully abiding by the Supreme Court's decision in Sackett. EPA has the responsibility to ensure federally jurisdictional water resources are protected while setting clear

and practical rules of the road that accelerate economic growth and advance cooperative federalism.

Following the Supreme Court's overturning of the Chevron doctrine, they made it clear that agencies like EPA no longer have the freedom to creatively bend the law to fulfill the demands of unelected bureaucrats. In accordance with this monumental decision, EPA rescinded the 2009 Endangerment Finding.

We are committed to advancing cooperative federalism and recognize the important responsibility EPA shares with our state air agency partners to ensure clean air for all Americans.

That's why we are gutting the prior Administration's so-called "good neighbor" rule, which was used on an ill-advised expansion of federal jurisdiction. The good news is that EPA is now once again working closely with our state partners on their State Implementation Plans (SIPS).

This great work is just a fraction of what EPA accomplishes on a daily basis as we continue to fulfill the agency's core mission of protecting human health and the environment.

The Trump EPA is committed to bringing down costs for American families by ending the insensible policies driven by the radical climate agenda.

The Biden Administration used the EPA to funnel billions of dollars to their well connected friends, advancing pet projects over meaningful environmental remediation. President Trump has ended this practice, realigning the agency to its core statutory obligations. I've cancelled roughly \$30 billion in wasteful grants and contracts, and will continue doing everything in my power to ensure the Trump EPA remains an exceptional steward of tax dollars.

Science remains the foundation of our work. We have strengthened scientific capacity across our national program offices and stood up the new Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions. The Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention has aggressively worked down the chemical and pesticide review backlog we inherited, while keeping pace with incoming submissions. And alongside HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., I announced that EPA is adding microplastics and pharmaceuticals to our Contaminant Candidate List for the first time ever, meeting emerging threats with the urgency they deserve.

The President's FY 2027 Budget will continue to make EPA efficient and effective stewards of Americans' hard-earned taxpayer dollars and fulfill all our statutory obligations and our core mission. This budget proposal captures significant efficiencies and a returned focus on what Congress has directed us to do, demonstrating our commitment to a leaner, more efficient, and accountable EPA focused on environmental work that directly benefits the American people.

The budget supports and aligns with President Trump's goal of rightsizing the federal workforce, with a staff not one more or less than what is necessary.

I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you.