

ACTION SHEET

August 6, 2025



“I respect President Trump, I support the majority of his agenda, but I don’t bow to anybody when the people of North Carolina are at risk, and this puts them at risk,”

—Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) on why he voted against the reconciliation bill

Summary: This month we will write to members of Congress urging them to protect funding for a clean and just energy system in the United States as the appropriations committees and subcommittees deliberate over the fiscal year budget for 2026.

Laser Talk:

As people of faith, we know that the budget is a moral document. As congress deliberates over the 2026 fiscal year budget through a series of appropriation bills, we want to protect funding for a clean and just energy system. This means preventing cuts to programs that (1) advance wind and solar energy, (2) increase access to electric vehicle chargers, (3) hold polluters accountable, and (4) promote clean air.

Cuts proposed by the Trump administration’s budget request include:

- the complete elimination of grants that support state and local air quality improvement as well as grants that reduce diesel emissions
- the complete elimination of environmental justice enforcement along with reductions in civil and criminal enforcement as well as compliance monitoring
- the complete elimination of wind and solar programs in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- a rollback of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, which seeks to put an electric vehicle charger every 50 miles on major highways

While the Senate Appropriations Committee is holding strong and avoiding significant cuts to the EPA, as well as protecting clean air projects, the House Appropriations Committee recently passed out of committee a version of the bill that bows to the President, including cutting the EPA by 23%, hamstringing its enforcement functions. Ask your Representative to lead or join a Dear Colleague letter to House leadership expressing concern over the House Appropriations Committee’s Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill and commit to voting no on the bill when it comes to the floor if the 23% cut to the EPA remains in effect.

Background:

The upcoming appropriations bills follow on the heels of a reconciliation bill that adhered to the Trump administration’s misguided goals for energy policy. During the fight against the reconciliation bill, early signs of support for clean energy credits among Republican members of the House and Senate translated into a more delayed phase out of the clean energy tax credits than was first proposed, but did not ultimately prevent the bill’s passage. Republican leadership openly threatened to primary any Republican member who voted against the bill. Instead of a vote on values, the reconciliation bill became a vote on loyalty. Jonathan Martin in *Politico* observed that the reconciliation bill passed for one main reason: “for Republican lawmakers, this was an up-or-down vote on President Donald Trump.”

Five Republicans in Congress (3 in the Senate and 2 in the House) resisted the pull to loyalty, including Sen. Collins, Sen. Tillis, and Rep. Fitzpatrick. Our goal is to increase Republican dissent until the current administration’s calamitous agenda can be effectively blocked in Congress. This can only happen through persistent grassroots advocacy.

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Differences between the House and Senate Appropriations Bills

Senate Bill:

1. The bill provides \$8.64 billion in funding for EPA—\$1.6 billion above the level in House Republicans' bill and \$4.5 billion above the level requested by President Trump. This represents a 5% funding cut to the EPA when accounting for inflation
2. The bill protects funding levels for clean water and clean air programs—and rejects the steep cuts that President Trump proposed in his budget request.
3. It provides targeted increases to programs like certain geographic programs, wildfire smoke grants, and the Tribal drinking water program.
4. The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which provide funding for water and wastewater projects, are funded at the fiscal year 2024 levels of \$2.76 billion. This is \$660 million above the level in House Republicans' bill and \$2.46 billion above the level requested by President Trump.
5. The Hazardous Substance Superfund program continues to receive additional funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

House Bill:

1. The bill provides \$7 billion in funding for the EPA, a 23 percent cut, more significant than the Senate yet not as steep as the Presidential Budget Request.
2. \$278 million in funding for enforcement and compliance activities, \$219 million below the fiscal year 2025 enacted level.
3. Eliminates Environmental Justice (EJ) activities.
4. \$3.7 billion for State and Tribal Assistance Grants, \$680 million below the fiscal year 2025 enacted level.
5. \$2.1 billion for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, \$662 million below the fiscal year 2025 enacted level.
6. \$283 million for the Hazardous Substance Superfund, \$255 million below the fiscal year 2025 enacted level.

Take Action, Write Your Representative:

1. Write to Representative using this email portal: <http://bit.ly/4nLENJi>
2. Introduce yourself: provide personal information to root yourself in the community (I am active in my local church of 200 members, I taught elementary school for 23 years here in _____, etc.) and briefly share why this issue matters to you. Share connections to your faith, activities you're involved with in your church to address these issues, etc.
3. Thank Rep. Smucker for something he has done or for his public service in Congress.
4. Share why you are in support of preserving EPA funding.
5. Make the ask: Call upon your Representative to lead or join a letter to House leadership expressing concern over the House Appropriations Committee's Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill. Urge your Representative to commit to voting "no" on the bill when it comes to the floor if the 23% cut to the EPA remains in effect. Also, ask that your Representative meet with your Climate Hope Affiliate chapter.