

# ACTION SHEET

## January 9, 2026



“After weeks of difficult negotiations, Appropriators delivered a bipartisan funding bill that protects public lands and the environment... We secured \$8.8 billion for EPA—\$4.7 billion above what the administration requested... I’ll keep pressing for stronger investments in the months ahead, but the funding package we passed today is proof that when we stand our ground, we can deliver for communities, protect our environment, and block harmful special-interest provisions.”

—Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Interior and Environment regarding the passage of H.R. 6938 on January 9, 2026

### **Summary:**

Since July, we have been focused on appropriations for Fiscal Year 2026. We have known that a top priority of the Trump administration has been to defund and dismantle the Environmental Protection Agency. The Trump administration proposed cutting the EPA’s budget by 55%, while the House proposed a 23% cut and the Senate proposed a 5% cut. We can now say that Climate Hope Affiliates has been part of a successful effort to beat back the proposed cuts in the House. On Thursday, the House passed an appropriations bill with a vote of 397 to 28 that would cut EPA funding by 3.5% with one analyst stating that it might be even less in practice. The Senate will vote on the bill next week, but for now, we can take action by contacting our Representatives with tailored messages that will support strong leadership for EPA funding as we turn our attention to the funding battle over appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027.

### **EPA Funding Overview for H.R. 6938**

H.R. 6938 allocates \$8.82 billion to the EPA for Fiscal Year 2026. This funding level represents:

- \$1.8 billion more than what was included in the House’s initial proposal
- \$4.7 billion more than the amount requested by the Trump administration

### **Key Funding Highlights:**

- Increased financial support for state and Tribal assistance grants
- Continued protection of Energy Star, a voluntary energy-efficiency labeling program that was targeted for elimination by the Trump administration

### **Water Infrastructure and Cleanup Programs:**

Funding for major water-related initiatives was maintained. The Clean Water State and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are funded at \$2.76 billion, matching fiscal year 2025 levels.

- This amount is \$660 million higher than the House’s initial bill.
- It is also \$2.46 billion above the level requested by the Trump administration.

### **State Grants and Environmental Research:**

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The bill ensures that states can continue relying on essential EPA grant programs by:

- Preserving funding for all categorical grant programs
- Increasing funding in select areas, including:
  - State and local air quality management
  - Pollution control initiatives
  - Nonpoint source pollution programs
- Notably, nearly all of these programs were eliminated in the Trump administration's budget proposal.

The Hazardous Substance Superfund program continues to receive its primary funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

In addition, the bill sustains EPA's scientific and research efforts in areas that promote clean air and water as well as healthy and sustainable communities.

### Action: Write to Your Members about H.R. 6938

Every chapter member should write their representative.

- (1) Look up how your representative voted: <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/20267>
- (2) Go to your representative's webpage to write to them by their messaging portal.
- (3) If your Representative voted for the bill, thank them and urge them to bring that kind of leadership to support for the EPA's Fiscal Year 2027 funding.
- (4) If your Representative voted against the bill, (a) let them know you look forward to discussing with them the importance of the EPA as it relates to EPA funding in Fiscal Year 2027, and (b) ask that they thank the following chairs and/or ranking minority members of the House:

Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee Chair Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) and/or Ranking Member Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

House Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) and/or Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)