

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2003

The Honorable Paul E. Gillmor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gillmor:

As Members of the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, we look forward to serving on the Subcommittee and working with you on the important public health and environmental issues within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction. Many Members, as you know, are new to subcommittee and several are new to the full Committee. That circumstance applies to several of the Members on your side of the aisle as well. It would benefit all Members, but particularly the new ones, if the Subcommittee were to schedule a budget oversight hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's recently submitted budget for Fiscal Year 2004. We therefore request that this hearing be scheduled as soon as possible.

This should provide the opportunity for the Subcommittee Members to review and understand the policy and funding choices that are being proposed for, among others, the following key areas in the Subcommittee's jurisdiction:

- Brownfield grants under the recently enacted Small Business Liability Protection and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2001;
- Funding necessary to expeditiously complete cleanup at toxic waste sites listed on the Superfund National Priorities List;
- State Revolving Loan Fund grants and loans under the Safe Drinking Water Act and their relationship to the demand for resources to rebuild and replace aging infrastructure of drinking water utilities;
- Funding from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund to address MTBE contamination and other releases of contamination from underground storage tanks;
- Funding for enforcement program personnel and inspections for violations of the environmental laws; and

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- Funding necessary to implement the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste.

We note that the Subcommittee held a hearing with senior officials of the EPA to review EPA's budget submission on March 30, 2000, during the previous Administration, and we believe that a similar hearing with Administrator Whitman would enable the Subcommittee to fulfill its institutional oversight responsibilities. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


HILDA L. SOLIS


THOMAS H. ALLEN


FRANK PALLONE, JR.


MICHAEL F. DOYLE


JIM DAVIS


JAN SCHAKOWSKY


PETER DEUTSCH



BOBBY L. RUSH


BART STUPAK


ALBERT R. WYNN


GENE GREEN


DIANA DEGETTE


JOHN D. DINGELL

cc: The Honorable W.J. (Billy) Tauzin, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce