



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Attorney General Clare E. Connors Joins 18 States and the District of Columbia in Urging Congress to Reject Trump Administration's Proposed "Punishing" Cuts to EPA's Budget

HONOLULU – Attorney General Clare E. Connors, joining a coalition of 18 states, plus the District of Columbia, led by New York, today called on the U.S. Congress to reject “deep and punishing” cuts that the Trump Administration has proposed for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In its Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposal to Congress, the Administration has proposed cutting EPA’s budget by \$2.8 billion – 31 percent – from current levels, including cuts of \$364 million to improving air quality, \$1.7 billion to providing for clean and safe water, \$278 million for revitalizing land and preventing contamination, and \$15 million for ensuring the safety of chemicals in the marketplace.

“The President’s proposed cuts to the EPA’s budget will undermine that agency’s ability to protect our environment,” said Attorney General Connors. “The cuts impact issues that are vitally important to Hawaii. These include climate change, clean water, protection of our beaches, and others that directly affect the welfare of our citizens.”

In a letter sent today to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the coalition writes that the Trump Administration’s proposed budget would “cripple, if not break” the successful partnership that has existed between EPA, and states and local governments for almost a half century. Further, the coalition charges that cuts of the magnitude proposed would take “our nation back to a time when air and water pollution was widespread, contaminated sites routinely imperiled the health of communities, and unregulated toxic chemicals in food, water, and the environment were a relentless danger to the safety of Americans.”

For over almost a half century, states and local communities have depended on EPA to be a strong and reliable partner – including through its longstanding commitment of funding to assist in implementing and enforcing our nation’s environmental and public health laws. On average, state environmental agencies receive roughly 27 percent of their annual funding from the federal government. Despite this, the Trump

Administration is proposing an over \$1.4 billion – 34 percent – cut in assistance for states and tribes, including deep cuts in funding for state and local water pollution control, pesticide enforcement, and air quality management, and the complete elimination of federal funding for a number of other state environmental protection activities, including beach protection and pollution prevention.

At the same time, the budget invests in EPA rulemakings aimed at replacing the Clean Power Plan, weakening the “Clean Cars” rule, and rolling back other regulations critical to reducing climate change pollution.

Joining Attorney General Connors in the [letter](#) are the Attorneys General of New York, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

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