

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

As Representatives from states served by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9, we write to express our significant concern about the potential termination of EPA employees, many based in our districts, as well as the impact this could have on public health and our environment.

Reports have indicated that some EPA staff have already been terminated while other staff have received emails informing them of possible dismissal due to their probationary status. The probationary staff include grant managers, inspectors, enforcement officers, attorneys, on-scene coordinators, permit reviewers, and emergency response personnel.

We are deeply concerned about the negative impacts such terminations—done across the board without consideration for positional need or programmatic impact—would have on the agency's ability to protect public health and the environment in Region 9 and across the nation. Though they are probationary, many of these employees are long-standing federal workers and subject matter experts with experience vital to running the EPA effectively and efficiently and performing critical functions protecting Americans. These "probationary statuses" in many cases resulted from promotions based on merit.

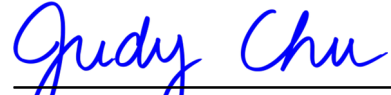
In the wake of the recent California wildfires, it is more critical than ever that EPA is fully staffed and supported to ensure EPA's efforts to identify hazardous materials on properties impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires is completed promptly. This cleanup effort is the largest wildfire cleanup in the history of the agency, and it is alarming to see EPA terminate employees while the rebuilding of devastated communities is ongoing. The work of EPA's employees, which includes reconnaissance at properties and the removal of electric vehicles and batteries, is vital to protecting the public and allowing these communities to safely rebuild.

In light of these concerns, we request that you reconsider any plans to terminate probationary EPA employees and reinstate those placed on administrative leave. We urge you to consider the critical importance of these workers to the EPA's mission and the potential adverse effects these terminations would have.

Sincerely,



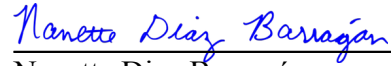
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



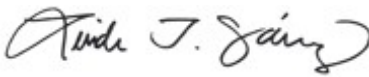
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



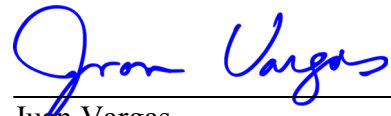
Brad Sherman
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



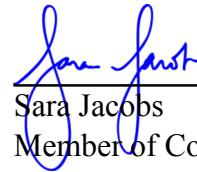
Linda T. Sánchez
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Juan Vargas
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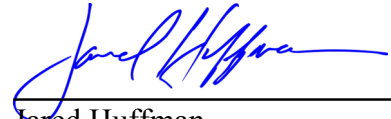
Julia Brownley
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Sara Jacobs
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Ro Khanna
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Jared Huffman
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Maxine Waters
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Doris Matsui
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Mark Takano
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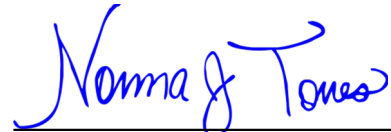
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



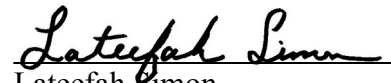
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
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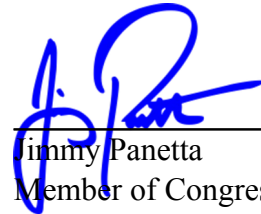
Robert Garcia
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Lateefah Simon
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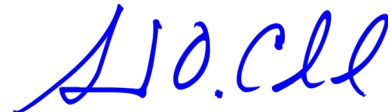
John Garamendi
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Jimmy Panetta
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



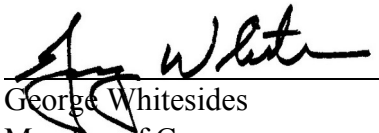
Salud Carbajal
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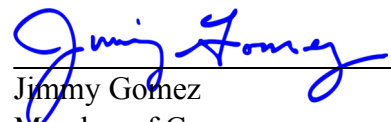
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



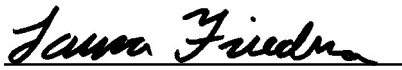
Mark DeSaulnier
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George Whitesides
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Jimmy Gomez
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Laura Friedman
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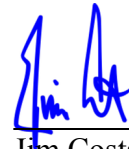
Dave Min
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Mike Levin
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Jim Tokuda
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Jim Costa
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