

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 3, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are deeply concerned about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) illegal efforts to withhold congressionally appropriated funding from our constituents, in response to the swath of Executive Orders you have issued since being sworn in. These executive orders to freeze funding, including "Unleashing American Energy," are clearly unconstitutional and should be rescinded immediately.

On January 27, 2025, your administration made the unconstitutional and unilateral decision to freeze all federal funding through a memorandum issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As a result, chaos and confusion halted payments to everything from veterans' programs to Head Start to Medicaid. While the sweeping OMB memo has since been rescinded – after a federal court stepped in – many critical programs remain unable to access federal funding.

In Connecticut, we have heard from the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments that their access to an open Fiscal Year 2022 Revolving Loan Fund grant was suspended by EPA. As of the afternoon of Wednesday, January 29, they were unable to access already promised funds through the federal portal – an \$8.66 million balance. This grant provides vital funding to remediate brownfield sites, helping local communities conduct environmental clean-up.

Cleaning up brownfields is one of the best investments the federal government can make in a community. It is an investment that creates jobs and helps transform polluted land into economically viable and environmentally safe parcels that communities will use for years to come. Federal brownfield funding protects people's health, incentivizes economic growth and development, and improves quality of life for all.

We understand this funding is being withheld in accordance with Section 7 of the Executive Order on "Unleashing American Energy." This section, titled "Terminating the Green New Deal," directs all agencies to "immediately pause the disbursement of funds appropriated

through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169) or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58).”¹

We demand that you immediately rescind this order.

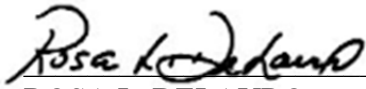
Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate



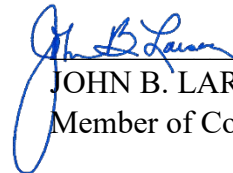
ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress



JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

CC: Administrator Lee Zeldin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

¹ Donald J. Trump, “Unleashing American Energy,” Executive Order, January 20, 2025.