

American Academy of Pediatrics • American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association •
American Geophysical Union • American Thoracic Society •
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America • Association of Public Health Laboratories •
Birth Defect Research for Children • Breast Cancer Prevention Partners • Children's
Environmental Health Network • Endocrine Society • Environmental Working Group •
Green Science Policy Institute • Healthy Schools Network •
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Inc. •
Learning Disabilities Association of America • Lupus Foundation of
America • The Myositis Association • National Center for Environmental Health Strategies •
National Environmental Health Association • Society for Occupational and Environmental
Health • Society for Women's Health Research • Society of Toxicology •
• The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research •
West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT)

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair, Interior-Env. Subcm.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Rank. Mem, Interior-Env. Subcm.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2021 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill, the undersigned members of the Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) would like to call your attention to the vital work being carried out by the NIH/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) as a result of the annual appropriation provided for this work in the Subcommittee's bill. We ask you to provide \$84 million for the Superfund Research program in FY2021.

Within the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill, the NIEHS's Superfund Program (SRP) supports research to address the health impacts from hazardous substances in the environment, develop clean-up technologies for hazardous waste, advance new risk assessment methods, and train the future generation of scientists to work in interdisciplinary research teams to tackle such problems. The SRP provides the scientific research used by the WTP to train hazardous waste workers, to accelerate remediation efforts, and to prevent health consequences related to toxicant exposure. These programs have provided the safety tools and training to transform contaminated sites into new opportunities for residential, industrial, and commercial ventures – which means new jobs for the surrounding community and new sources of revenue for state and local governments.

The SRP's research portfolio and research findings include:

- ***Pregnancy Complications*** - Researchers at the University of Michigan revealed how exposure to Trichloroethylene (TCE), a widely used industrial chemical frequently found at Superfund sites as a contaminant in soil and groundwater, may have a negative impact on placental growth during pregnancy, which may affect the growth and wellbeing of the baby.
- ***Childhood asthma*** – Researchers at Louisiana State University are investigating how the presence of environmentally persistent free radicals (EPFRs) in household dust is linked to persistent wheeze in children. The presence of these emerging environmental contaminants in settled dust inside the home demonstrates their longevity in the environment and the association between EPFR characteristics and wheeze status points to the involvement of oxidative stress.
- ***Hurricanes*** - Researchers at Texas A&M University Superfund Research Program Center are developing methods and tools to predict exposure during environmental emergencies, such as the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Florence and to produce applied solutions to mitigate negative effects of environmental disasters on human health. Researchers from Northeastern University are providing water infiltration kits and other support to its study participants in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The researchers are investigating links between the high preterm birth rate of 11.8% on the island, and the extent of hazardous waste contamination there. Puerto Rico has more than 200 contaminated sites that include 18 active Superfund sites.
- ***Groundwater Contaminant Sensing, Tracking and Removal*** - Researchers at MIT are developing ways of using tiny sensors and smart phones to sense and track the movement of emerging chemical contaminants in the environment. Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley are developing a device for convenient on-site treatment to remove lead and arsenic from drinking water.
- ***Addressing PFAS contamination*** – Researchers at Brown University, Harvard and Texas A&M SRP Centers and other SRP-sponsored SBIR projects are heavily engaged in addressing legacy and emerging PFAS contamination, providing urgently needed scientific information on exposure sources, toxicity, and clean-up methods to inform policy, and aiding states and impacted communities.

We ask for your leadership in ensuring that the NIH/NIEHS Superfund-related activities receive an increase of \$3 million in the Fiscal Year 2021 bill to a total of \$84 million, which will help to keep our air, soil, and water safe. Additionally, the Subcommittee's investment in NIEHS funding creates private sector jobs and bolsters the economy. If the opportunity to meet the current investment needs of the NIEHS Superfund Research Program and Worker Training Program is passed by, we risk reversing a variety of public health, environmental, and economic gains of the past 25 years. Representatives from this diverse coalition would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about the very important work being carried out by NIEHS.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Autoimmune-Related Disease Association

American Geophysical Union
American Thoracic Society
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Birth Defect Research for Children
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (formerly Breast Cancer Fund)
Childrens Environmental Health Network
Endocrine Society
Environmental Working Group
Green Science Policy Institute
Healthy Schools Network
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Inc.
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Lupus Foundation of America
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies
National Environmental Health Association
Society for Occupational and Environmental Health
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Toxicology
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Myositis Association
West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT)