

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 25, 2022

Michael Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Billy Nolen  
Interim Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Regan and Interim Administrator Nolen:

This Thursday, July 28th at 2 pm ET, I am holding a hearing in my House Oversight Subcommittee on the Environment on how leaded aviation fuel poisons community members -- especially children -- with toxic lead pollution.

For over a month, my staff has been working with yours to secure your participation at this hearing. We were told you are unavailable, so we offered to let the Deputy Administrators or other senior officials testify as a compromise. This option was rejected. To try and further accommodate you, we offered to change the scope of the hearing so that both your agencies would be comfortable testifying. Unfortunately, both your agencies are flatly refusing to cooperate in any way with this hearing that is going forward next Thursday.

The leaded fuel used by piston-engine aircrafts is the last remaining leaded transportation fuel in the United States and accounts for 70% of lead air pollution nationwide. Approximately 160,000 children attend school near an airport facility in the United States using leaded aviation fuel, including in my district. A recent study at an airport that impacts my district analyzed 17,000 blood samples from children. It found results comparable to the 2014 Flint Water Crisis.

Lead is a toxic poison. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agree that there is *no safe level* of lead exposure for children. Lead is highly poisonous, causing a variety of adverse health effects, even at low doses,

Administrator Regan and Interim Administrator Nolen

Pg. 2

including brain damage, learning and behavior problems, lower IQ levels, and increased blood pressure.

I understand the sensitivities associated with testimony on this issue at a time when the EPA is still considering whether to issue an endangerment finding regarding leaded aviation fuel. That said, it is unconscionable that your agencies are refusing to even participate in a conversation about lead in children's blood. I would expect this of the previous administration, but not this one. You should welcome the opportunity to raise awareness about your actions on this issue, even if they are still at an early stage. Your refusal to appear calls into question your commitment to transparency and environmental justice. I implore you to send someone to the Subcommittee's hearing this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ro Khanna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ro Khanna  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Ralph Norman, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment