

**Chairman Brett Guthrie**  
**Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Environment**  
**“The Fiscal Year 2026 Environmental Protection Agency Budget”**

**May 20, 2025**

*As prepared for delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Administrator Zeldin, it's great to have you back in the House to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's budget request for fiscal year 2026. Thank you for being here today.

The previous administration forced Green New Deal-style policies on Americans through massive overspending and minimal oversight, with little regard for the needs of job creators and rural communities.

Under Biden-Harris, the EPA transitioned from an agency created to help protect our communities and our environment to that of a piggy bank for the climate lobby.

Administrator Zeldin has announced an ambitious agenda that will return EPA to its core mission of protecting human health and the environment. EPA should not be an unchecked antagonist to American industry and the small businesses that have to shoulder the burdens of unnecessary regulation, or a barrier to energy innovations that increase basic costs of living for middle class Americans.

I welcome Administrator Zeldin's recent announcement to review more than 30 of the previous administration's regulatory excesses, and I know the members of this Committee look forward to working together to get things back on track at the agency.

This Committee has already taken steps to overturn the Biden-Harris Administration's costly mandates on a range of industries and the ceding of power to the State of California, and tomorrow the House is voting to disapprove yet another regulation, this time under the Clean Air Act, that actually **discourages** facilities from reducing their emissions.

There is more work than needs to be done, including reconsidering power plant rules so we can have less expensive and more reliable energy to power our grid in support of consumers, advanced manufacturing, and AI technologies; fixing EPA's chemical program so that safer alternatives can gain approval and get to the market more quickly; and cleaning up Brownfields and other contaminated sites so they can be put back into productive use.

Administrator Zeldin has also announced this EPA would be efficient and responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars with no tolerance for waste. We can protect the environment as well as address our energy and economic needs—we do not need to choose.

I look forward to discussing how we will achieve the Great American Comeback under this administration.

Before I yield back, I want to take a minute to congratulate you on your recent retirement from the military. For those of you who did not know, Administrator Zeldin served in our military for 22 years, retiring this month from the Army Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In 2006, while on Active Duty, he deployed to Iraq with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I speak for all of us here when I say thank you for your military service and your continued service to our great nation in this new role.

Thank you again for being here, and I yield back.