

**Rep. David McKinley Opening Statement
Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee
May 13, 2021
CLEAN Future Act – Superfund provisions**

As prepared for delivery

Thank you. Mr. Chairman we need to set an example if we want schools to be open, shouldn't we be open too? If the senate and other house committees are having hybrid in-person hearings who is directing you not to do the same?

Look, everyone supports cleaning up superfund sites. They're a blight on America. Unfortunately, there are over 1,100 designated superfund sites around the country. President Obama cleaned up 82 superfund sites in 8 years i.e., 10 sites per year. So do the math it would take us over 100 years to get rid of all the superfund sites and by that time more sites will be added to that list.

So what was the problem? Under Obama his focus was climate change - superfund sites were neglected. Now how does that differ from trump? Trump cleaned up sites at twice the annual rate, 20 per year.

Trump made cleaning up these sites a priority. His task force developed an "emphasis list" so that they were following a plan. One that wasn't politically driven.

As a result, sites like West Lake Landfill (Missouri), Diamond Alkali Company (New Jersey), Tar Creek (Oklahoma), and Madison County Mines (Missouri) were all taken care of. He put together a lean management system that made the superfund process more efficient and clean ups happen faster. And he clearly did more outreach to communities.

Elected officials all around the country appreciated his attention to their problem sites. As former chairman Walden mentioned in previous hearings, in a thank you note, an elected official from Portland, Oregon wrote that they had been waiting for years for EPA to clean up the Willamette River and Portland Harbor and Trump made it happen

And according to a Politico article last year a prominent superfund activist said even though she couldn't stand Trump, he was getting something done. She went on to say that "Obama was terrible on these issues.....and Gina McCarthy only cared about the climate." She said that until the Trump administration the last time she saw that much work being done on superfund sites was never.

Mr. Chairman this legislation doesn't seem to support building atop the Trump successes. But rather, it seems like its going to slow things down. And because it's tied to the CLEAN Future Act the superfund program will be mired down in the climate change debate and buried under reams of new bureaucratic requirements; relegated to the back burner like it was under Obama.

In so doing we can only expect the clean up process to slow down again, with less empathy to rural communities saddled with the horrors of a superfund site in their background. So, Mr. Chairman don't tell me congress is going to clean up these sites show me. Thank you and I yield back.