

**GABE AMO**

1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

**VICE RANKING MEMBER,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON ENVIRONMENT

**COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

**WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE**  
1119 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4911  
(202) 225-3290 (FAX)

**PROVIDENCE, RI OFFICE**  
10 CHARLES STREET, SUITE 200  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02904  
(401) 729-5600  
(401) 729-5608 (FAX)

amo.house.gov

June 9, 2026

Chair Brian Babin  
House Science, Space, and  
Technology Committee  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Babin,

We write to express our dismay regarding Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin's failure to appear before the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to testify regarding EPA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget request.

As you know, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee has jurisdiction over all matters relating to environmental research and development, environmental standards, climate change research and development, scientific issues related to environmental policy, and relevant oversight at the EPA.<sup>1</sup> The Committee's oversight responsibilities are critical to ensuring transparency and the responsible use of taxpayer funds. Our work is hindered when the head of an agency within our Committee's jurisdiction fails to appear. If the Administrator refuses to defend their budget in public, it raises serious alarms about what they are trying to hide.

This is a clear break from longstanding precedent. EPA Administrators from both parties, across multiple administrations, have appeared before this Committee to answer questions and justify their policies and budgets. That includes the following individuals under the previous three Presidential Administrations:

- Administrator Michael Regan (September 27, 2023<sup>2</sup>)
- Administrator Andrew Wheeler (September 19, 2019<sup>3</sup>)
- Administrator Gina McCarthy (November 14, 2013<sup>4</sup>, July 9, 2015<sup>5</sup>, and June 22, 2016<sup>6</sup>)

Administrator Zeldin's failure to sit before our Committee would represent an abrupt departure from that bipartisan norm and undermine our Committee's institutional role.

His absence is especially detrimental given the FY27 budget itself. The proposal would significantly slash EPA funding, including deep cuts to core programs that protect clean air and water, reductions to scientific research

<sup>1</sup> <https://science.house.gov/jurisdiction-and-rules>

<sup>2</sup> <https://science.house.gov/2023/9/full-committee-hearing-science-and-technology-at-the-epa>

<sup>3</sup> <https://science.house.gov/2019/9/full-committee-hearing-science-and-technology-environmental-protection-agency>

<sup>4</sup> <https://science.house.gov/2013/11/full-committee-hearing-strengthening-transparency-and-accountability-within>

<sup>5</sup> <https://science.house.gov/2015/7/examining-epa-s-regulatory-overreach>

<sup>6</sup> <https://science.house.gov/2016/6/full-committee-hearing-ensuring-sound-science-epa>

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and enforcement capacity, and rollbacks that weaken the agency's ability to safeguard public health. If enacted by Republicans in Congress, these cuts would strain state and local partners, jeopardize drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, and leave communities more vulnerable to pollution and environmental hazards.

At a moment when the agency is proposing to do less with less, accountability must not be optional. Members of our Committee deserve the opportunity to question these choices, examine their consequences, and hear directly from the Administrator responsible for protecting human health and the environment.<sup>7</sup> Given Administrator Zeldin's attempts to gut his agency and allow it to be captured by corporate interests, it is critical that members of the Committee can conduct their oversight responsibilities to represent their constituents effectively.

Refusing to appear before the Committee is not just a scheduling decision; it is a failure to meet that basic obligation. We implore you to take immediate steps to ensure Administrator Zeldin testifies publicly before our Committee without further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabe Amo', written in a cursive style.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/our-mission-and-what-we-do>