



Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
364 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Committee on Science and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2320 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Members of Congress:

We, the undersigned, are Presidents of 22 Local Unions representing over 10,000 United States Environmental Protection Agency (“U.S. EPA” or “Agency”) environmental engineers, scientists, risk managers, environmental protection specialists and related staff. We are writing to express our concerns about the impact of U.S. EPA’s budget cuts on the operations of U.S. EPA’s laboratories. We are especially concerned about U.S. EPA management’s efforts to close, relocate and consolidate the Agency’s laboratories.

At laboratories located throughout the nation, the Agency works to assess environmental conditions and to identify, understand, and solve current and future environmental problems; integrate the work of scientific partners such as nations, private sector organizations, academia and other agencies; and provide leadership in addressing emerging environmental issues and in advancing the science and technology of risk assessment and risk management. This work is critical to achieving EPA’s mission of environmental protection.

Yet U.S. EPA’s ability to continue to do this work will be jeopardized by U.S. EPA’s Laboratory Consolidation Plan, as outlined in a memo written by Lyons Gray, U.S. EPA’s Chief Financial Officer, titled “FY 2008 Budget Guidance.” U.S. EPA’s Budget Guidance calls for the development of “a plan for reducing the Agency’s laboratory infrastructure costs by a minimum of 10% by 2009 and another 10% by 2011.” This Budget Guidance even goes farther to call for a “... *recommendation for closing, relocating, and consolidating lab/field locations*” and “... *an approach for reducing or relocating necessary staff.*”

According to an U.S. EPA memorandum dated October 26, 2006, these recommendations from U.S. EPA’s Laboratory Infrastructure Review are due to Administrator Johnson by April 30, 2007. This infrastructure review specifies, “...*To the extent that workgroups identify low hanging fruit and recommendations that could be implemented immediately to realize savings, such actions should be taken.*”

/S/

Charles Orzechoskie, President
AFGE National Council of EPA Locals
#238/ Chicago, IL

/S/

Paul Scoggins, President
AFGE Local 1003/U.S. EPA Region 6
Dallas, TX

/S/

Steve Kinser, President
NTEU Chapter 294/U.S. EPA Region 7
Kansas City, KS

/S/

Dave Christenson, President
AFGE Local 3607/U.S. EPA Region 8
Denver, CO

/S/

Patrick Chan, President
NTEU Chapter 295/U.S. EPA Region 9
San Francisco, CA

/S/

Wendell Smith, President
ESC EPA – Unit /U.S. EPA Region 9
San Francisco, CA

/S/

Steven Roy, President
AFGE Local 1110/U.S. EPA Region 10
Seattle, WA

/S/

Silvia Saracco, President
AFGE Local 3347/U.S. EPA Research
Triangle Park/RTP, NC

/S/

Lesley Mills, President
NAGE Local R1-240/Narragansett, RI
ORD NHEERL Atlantic Ecology Div.

/S/

Geraldine Cripe, President
NAIL Local 9/ Gulf Breeze, FL
National HEER Laboratory

/S/

Larry Penley, President
NTEU Chapter 279/ Cincinnati, OH
U.S. EPA Office of R & D Laboratory

/S/

Mark Coryell, President
AFGE Local 3907/National Vehicle &
Fuel Emissions Laboratory/Ann Arbor

/S/

Andrew Grange, Ph.D., President
NAGE Local R12-135/ORD National
Exposure Research Laboratory

/S/

David Walters, President
AFGE Local 2900/Robert S. Kerr
Research Laboratory/Ada, OK