

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

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Michael Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Room 3426 WJC North  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

As you prepare the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget request to Congress for Fiscal Year 2023, we write to encourage you to include plans for new full-time equivalent (FTE) staff and direct project funding for the testing and remediation of dangerous polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in schools and childcare facilities. According to the EPA, “PCBs have been demonstrated to cause a variety of adverse health effects,” and have been linked to cancer, immune effects, and other health harms.<sup>1</sup> Around one-third of all school-aged children may be exposed to PCBs through their school environments, with more children likely being exposed through day care and other facilities.<sup>2</sup>

The EPA and its regional offices have long been working to provide best practices on how to address PCB contamination in schools from light ballasts, paint, caulk, and other sources. However, insufficient funding and staff levels have impeded the EPA’s ability to provide individual technical assistance or grants to communities in need. As more and more communities reach out for sampling support, technical assistance in developing clean-up plans, and help to afford remediation, additional EPA resources could help support the important work that EPA regional offices are already doing to protect children from PCB exposure.

We urge the EPA budget request to include sufficient funding and staffing to:

- Support new FTEs to provide technical assistance in all EPA regional offices regarding PCB sampling, testing, exposure, and remediation.
- Develop new pilot programs or grant funding for direct PCB remediation projects, including through the authority granted by Section 28 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. § 2627), in partnership with state and local education agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> *Health Effects of PCBs*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs#healtheffects>.

<sup>2</sup> *The ABC’s of Polychlorinated Biphenyls*, Office of U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey (Oct. 2016), <https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016-10-05-Markey-PCB-Report-ABCsofPCBs.pdf>.

Administrator Michael Regan

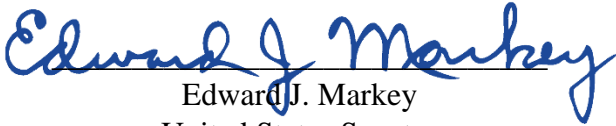
February 24, 2022

Page 2 of 2

- Fund national data collection and surveying efforts, in order to better document and understand PCB exposure risks for children in schools and childcare facilities.

We applaud the Administration's renewed focus on toxic chemical management and remediation, and look forward to collaborating further on this important issue. We thank you for your consideration as you prepare the budget request for Fiscal Year 2023.

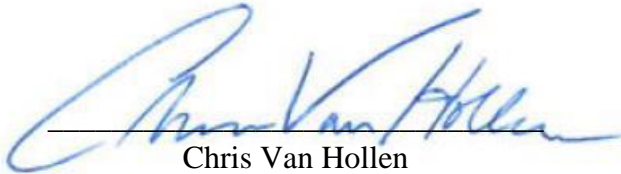
Sincerely,



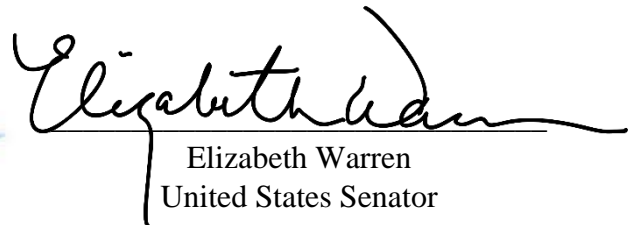
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



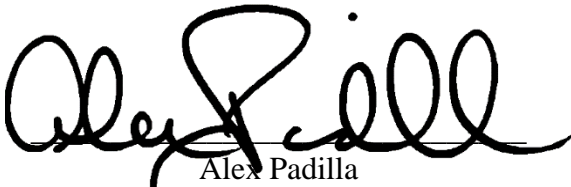
Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



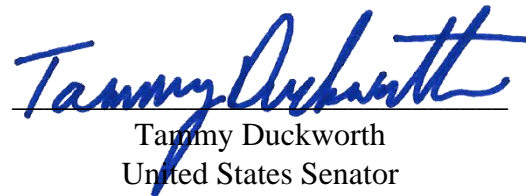
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



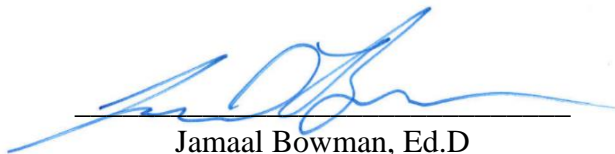
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Shalanda D. Young, Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget