

American Academy of Pediatrics • American Association on Health and Disability • American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association • American College of Preventive Medicine • American Lung Association • American Thoracic Society • Association of Public Health Laboratories • Breast Cancer Fund • Children's Environmental Health Network • Endocrine Society • Environmental Working Group • Healthy Schools Network • Learning Disabilities Association of America • National Alopecia Areata Foundation • National Center for Environmental Health Strategies • National Eczema Association • Natural Resources Defense Council • Society for Occupational and Environmental Health • Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation • Society for Women's Health Research • Society of Toxicology •

March 12, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Interior-Env. Subcm.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Rank. Mem, Interior-Env. Subcm.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

As you consider the FY2016 Interior-Environment and Related Agencies appropriation bill, the undersigned members of the Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), would like to call your attention to the vital work being done by the NIH/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) that is supported through the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill.

Within the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill, the NIEHS's Superfund Program (SRP) supports research to address the health impacts arising from the release of hazardous substances into the environment, to develop new containment and clean-up technologies for hazardous waste, and to develop methods to assess the risks to human health from hazardous substances.

The SRP's research portfolio and accomplishments include:

- NIEHS Superfund researchers have developed a double membrane of nanostructured materials that removes organic contaminants from groundwater. The device offers an inexpensive way to provide clean drinking water in areas of the world where chemical contamination is prevalent.
- High phthalate exposures during pregnancy increase odds of preterm birth
- Triclosan exposure is linked to liver tumors in mice
- NIEHS Superfund-trained workers provided essential assistance in the response to the chemical spill in West Virginia's Elk River and for the clean-up after hurricane Sandy.

We ask for your leadership in ensuring that the NIH/NIEHS Research Program receives an increase of \$3 million so that it can take advantage of the many research opportunities that would help to solve our problems with hazardous waste. The sequester followed by flat funding for the

last two years has meant that very deserving research has not been supported. Representatives from this diverse coalition would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about the very important work being carried out by NIEHS.

Sincerely,

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