

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We write to express our support for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) initial response to the Boyle Heights warehouse fire in Los Angeles and to request that the agency continue to support state and local partners in monitoring air and water quality impacts on local communities.

As you know, the warehouse fire started on June 17 and has generated significant smoke that continues to affect air quality across Southern California. Furthermore, contaminated runoff from the water used to extinguish the fire has spread through the industrial area surrounding the warehouse and collected in streets and drainage systems near the property. This water is mixed with ash, debris, and burned insulation which could contaminate ocean and regional waterway ecosystems like the LA River. Given the materials present in the warehouse, we are concerned about the long-term health and environmental impacts from contaminated smoke and water runoff on communities surrounding the warehouse.

We were pleased to learn that EPA has partnered with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and South Coast Air Quality Monitoring District (SCAQMD) to perform air monitoring and sampling to measure levels of particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ammonia, and toxic metals. Both Mayor Karen Bass and Governor Newsom issued emergency declarations on June 20, authorizing the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to provide additional assistance and resources. We urge EPA to continue to support LAFD, the lead organization for the response to this incident, in performing ongoing air and water monitoring and sampling, and to continue to work in close coordination with state and local partners to study the possible long-term effects of contamination from the fire.

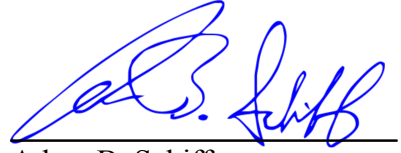
The chemicals and food products present in the warehouse and the length of time required to extinguish the fire has put communities across Southern California at risk. While firefighting crews continue to work tirelessly to mitigate damage from the flames, state, local, and federal agencies must work together to monitor air and water quality in the weeks following this incident and to continue to communicate proactively with local communities. We encourage full cooperation across agencies and municipalities to ensure that Californians can continue to

withstand and recover from this fire. Thank you for your attention thus far, and we look forward to continuing to coordinate emergency and disaster response efforts with EPA.

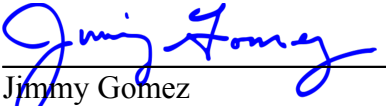
Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress