



January 30, 2026

Lee Zeldin  
Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

As you restructure operations of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) looks forward to continuing our successful relationship with the agency and would like to meet with you to discuss opportunities for collaboration. APHL is a membership organization which strengthens the impact of state and local public health, environmental, and agriculture laboratories nationally by providing analytical training, technical assistance, and connection to federal, programmatic, and academic partners. State government environmental and public health laboratories are at the front line of testing for environmental contaminants. These APHL member laboratories have a strong history of collaborating with EPA to ensure there is clean air, land, and water and provide support and assistance with meeting federal and state statutory requirements.

APHL member laboratories have a unique partnership with EPA having directly collaborated with the agency on projects that advanced environmental testing technologies, provided for a greater understanding of human health effects from chemical exposures, and informed federal and state policies. For example:

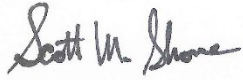
- APHL members in Oregon, Minnesota, and Maryland worked with EPA scientists to implement high resolution mass spectrometry testing that identified emerging, unregulated contaminants in drinking water.
- In Oregon, APHL members worked with EPA to identify sources of nitrogen contamination in drinking water wells.
- In Minnesota, EPA scientists assisted APHL members with critical test components so the public health laboratory could identify which lakes need fish catch-and-release advisories due to contamination.

APHL member laboratories are well-positioned to assist EPA with test method development, training, and technology transfer to the state and local laboratories. Prior to developing new tests, EPA scientists have met with APHL member laboratories and discussed which test methods were needed and the instruments that members had in-house. This cooperation results in a model of cooperative federalism—successful EPA innovation and state laboratory implementation without requiring additional costly equipment. APHL and our member laboratories look forward to working with EPA to continue efficient extension of new test methods to state laboratories to advance environmental testing.

Additionally, APHL is grateful for our longstanding relationship with Kacee Deener of the new OASES Science Engagement Division and would like to preserve this relationship and expand it to include the new OASES Applied Science and Environmental Methods Division. APHL is poised to provide support for implementation of Safe Drinking Water Act changes that require laboratory services and expertise, such as providing training to state and local laboratories for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances drinking water analysis. APHL would like to meet with EPA to discuss reinvigorating this important work.

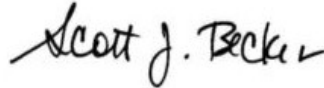
We look forward to strengthening our partnership with EPA and exploring ways to build our relationship together.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD(ABB)  
President, APHL

[scott.shone@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:scott.shone@dhhs.nc.gov)



Scott J. Becker, MS  
Chief Executive Officer, APHL

[scott.becker@aphl.org](mailto:scott.becker@aphl.org)

cc: House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House Subcommittee on Environment  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Senate Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight