

Dear Colleagues,

I am glad to report that Congress has passed a fiscal year 2023 Omnibus appropriation that President Biden will soon sign into law. The Omnibus includes \$10.135 billion for EPA's annual budget, an increase of \$576 million above EPA's previous year's funding. The budget also includes \$1 billion in much needed relief for communities impacted by the recent hurricanes and \$600 million to respond to the drinking water emergency in Jackson, Mississippi.

The FY 2023 budget will help the agency further its mission to protect people and the planet and will help sustain our work to invest in our communities and deliver results. The support that Congress and the President have shown for our work – and, importantly, the confidence they have in EPA's career team – is reflected throughout this funding bill.

Some of the highlights include:

- The <u>largest annual investment in Environmental Justice</u> in the Agency's history: \$108 million. Combined with historic investments from
 the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA is poised to tackle some of the Nation's toughest environmental justice challenges in communities across the
 country and ensure all people share in the benefits of a cleaner environment.
- <u>Sustained support for our state and Tribal partners</u> though \$4.5 billion for State and Tribal Assistance Grants, an increase of \$129 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes:
 - \$2.76 billion for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds; this includes \$1.4 billion in Community Project Funding for 715 drinking water, wastewater, and storm water management projects across the country.
 - \$100 million for Brownfields cleanups, a \$8 million increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
 - \$100 million for Diesel Emissions Reduction grants, an increase of \$8 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
 - \$16 million for four new grant programs authorized in the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act.
- <u>Continued investments in EPA's core science and environmental program work.</u> The Omnibus provides \$4.1 billion science and technology and environmental programs and management, an increase of \$374 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within these amounts, the bill includes:
 - \$681.7 million for Geographic Programs, which help with the restoration of nationally significant bodies of water like the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound and Long Island Sound. This is an increase of \$94.5 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

- \$613.2 million in funding for enforcement and compliance activities. This is an increase of \$71.6 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
- Welcomed investments in EPA's workforce. The Omnibus will allow the agency to continue its strategic hiring efforts and implement the President's 2023 civilian pay raise.

As we head into the holidays and round out 2022, I want to thank you again for your service to the people of our nation and to the EPA. Together, we will continue to advance our vital mission on behalf of all people and all communities.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Regan Administrator