

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1703

August 10th, 2026

The Honorable Lee M. Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

I am writing to oppose implementation of President Trump's July 13th proclamation granting broad exemptions to the chemical manufacturing industry and rolling back the Hazardous Organic National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants or HON Standards. This proclamation granted 20 facilities a two-year exemption from regulatory requirements related to dangerous chemical discharges as mandated by the Clean Air Act¹. These latest exemptions follow the president's decision to exempt 50 facilities from HON standards in 2025.² HON Standards are designed to reduce cancer risk and other negative health impacts for communities surrounding industrial chemical sites. Removing these limits on chemical emissions will directly harm my constituents, including in Louisville neighborhoods that have already for decades lived with the impacts of industrial pollution and contamination.

Two Kentucky facilities were named in the recent exemptions: Zeon Chemicals, a synthetic rubber manufacturer in Louisville, and Westlake, a vinyl manufacturer in Calvert City. Last year, the administration also granted a two-year exemption to Bakelite Synthetics, a formaldehyde plant located 500 feet from homes in the Riverside Gardens neighborhood in Louisville. On January 26th, 2025, just days after President Trump's inauguration, a chemical spill stemming from the Bakelite Synthetics facility turned a creek in the Rubbertown neighborhood of Louisville red. Just six months later, in July of 2025, President Trump exempted Bakelite Synthetics Louisville facility from EPA's HON standards. EPA's own National Air Toxics Assessment concluded that because of its proximity to industrial facilities which release carcinogens into the air and groundwater supply, the Rubbertown neighborhood in my district has a higher risk of cancer and other health problems.³ EPA should not reward polluters with exemptions without any regard for the people who will live with the consequences.

This administration's irresponsible deregulatory actions will inevitably harm Louisvillians. Every person has a right to breathable air and clean water. Residents in at-risk neighborhoods shouldn't need to worry about those rights being rolled back for the sake of industry. I urge you to reconsider these rollbacks and take seriously EPA's responsibility to provide Americans with a safe and healthy environment.

Sincerely,



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress

¹ The White House. (2026, July 13). *Regulatory relief for certain stationary sources to promote American chemical manufacturing security*.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/07/regulatory-relief-for-certain-stationary-sources-to-promote-american-chemical-manufacturing-security-be40/>

² White House. (2025, July 17). *Regulatory Relief for Certain Stationary Sources to Promote American Chemical Manufacturing Security* (Presidential Proclamation). Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/regulatory-relief-for-certain-stationary-sources-to-promote-american-chemical-manufacturing-security/>

³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2021, February 9). *Next generation emission measurements help understand air pollutants in Rubbertown industrial area of Louisville, Kentucky*. <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/next-generation-emission-measurements-help-understand-air-pollutants-rubbertown/>