

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
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<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 20, 2025

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating the Biden Administration's policies that led to higher energy costs and placed burdensome restrictions on consumer choice. Specifically, the Committee is interested in evaluating "the regulatory costs, bad policies, and veiled special interests that defined the Biden Administration."<sup>1</sup> As such, we commend your efforts to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which includes cancelling Biden-era environmental justice grants and contracts.<sup>2</sup> As we share your commitment to protect taxpayer dollars, the Committee requests a briefing to better understand what EPA is uncovering about the Biden Administration's allocation of funding resources to outside groups and its novel agreements with financial institutions to escape oversight.

For example, the Biden Administration's EPA partnered with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and entered into an unprecedented arrangement with a financial institution to hold \$20 billion for environmental groups to be dispersed later with minimal, if any, guardrails.<sup>3</sup> The Committee shares your alarm that "this scheme was the first of its kind in EPA history and it was purposefully designed to obligate all of the money in a rush job with reduced oversight."<sup>4</sup> Further, it appears that the \$20 billion at issue is part of the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) whose former director appears to have facilitated \$5 billion in funding to

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, to Doug Burgum, Sec'y, Dep't of the Interior, *et al.* (Feb. 18, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> Lee Zeldin (@epaleezeldin), X, (Feb. 13, 2025, 11:47 AM), *available at* <https://x.com/epaleezeldin/status/1890080377940926637>; See Environmental Protection Agency, News Releases, *EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Cancels Nine More Contracts, Saving Nearly \$60 Million* (Feb. 14, 2025); Environmental Protection Agency, News Releases, *Administrator Zeldin Terminates Biden-Harris \$20B 'Gold Bar' Grants* (Mar. 11, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> Environmental Protection Agency, News Releases, *Administrator Zeldin Announces that Billions of Dollars Worth of "Gold Bars" Have Been Located at Outside Financial Institution* (Feb. 13, 2025); Kelly Jane Torrance, *EPA head Lee Zeldin reveals no real oversight of shocking \$20B that Biden admin funneled through Citibank: 'Tip of the iceberg'*, N.Y. POST (Feb. 13, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

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his former employer.<sup>5</sup> The assessment of the Biden Administration EPA and the financial institution's coordination should include a review of the individuals involved in establishing this anomalous arrangement because of apparent conflict of interest concerns and the lack of oversight for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and IRA funds—including in the months before President Donald Trump's inauguration.

Further, the Committee seeks to better understand potential entanglements or conflicts of interest between former Biden Administration EPA officials who directed funds and their destination. At least one former Biden Administration EPA official who appears to have worked on a team dedicated to the BIL and IRA implementation between November 6, 2024, and January 20, 2025, is seeking employment with a recipient of the funds.<sup>6</sup> Each grant issued by the Biden Administration deserves heightened scrutiny.

The Committee applauds the Trump Administration EPA's vigilant early efforts to fight waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayers' dollars and seeks to assist EPA in this important work. To that end, please make arrangements to schedule a briefing with Committee staff on this matter as soon as possible.

To schedule the briefing or to ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform



Eric Burlison  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic Growth,  
Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs

cc: The Honorable Gerald Connolly, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Maxwell Frost, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs

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<sup>5</sup> Thomas Catenacci, 'Serious Conflicts of Interest': Biden EPA Official Oversaw \$5B Grant to His Former Employer, FREE BEACON (Feb. 20, 2025).

<sup>6</sup> Lee Zeldin (@epaleezeldin), X, (Feb. 11, 2025, 5:06 PM), available at <https://x.com/epaleezeldin/status/188943576402855349>.