



Katie Hobbs
Governor

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality



Karen Peters
Cabinet Executive Officer
Executive Deputy Director

June 19, 2024

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sinema:

Our country's state and local clean air agencies have seen tremendous success in reducing air pollution. Yet, despite nationwide progress, air pollution continues to cause tens of thousands of early deaths in America and remains a serious public health concern, affecting millions annually. We urgently request your support in addressing this significant issue.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and other state and local clean air agencies across the country are responsible for implementing essential air quality programs that safeguard public health. Unfortunately, these programs have been underfunded for many years and require substantial increases in resources. To meet current and future obligations, we ask Congress to provide \$500 million in Section 103 and 105 (Clean Air Act) federal grants to state and local air agencies in FY 2025. This funding is crucial to support ongoing programs, address new challenges, and allow state and local air agencies the flexibility to prioritize their highest needs. Whenever possible, these grant increases should not require matching funds, such as those provided under Section 103 authority.

Federal grant funding under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act, which supports state and local clean air agencies, has remained nearly unchanged for almost 20 years, despite numerous new regulations and requirements. These grants have not kept pace with inflation, while our programs have become increasingly costly and complex. Continued shortfalls in federal funding will leave communities at risk and force cuts to existing programs, exacerbating air pollution.

While we appreciate the occasional supplementary grant opportunities, such as those provided by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), these grants typically cover only initial equipment purchases and are limited in their use for personnel costs. They do not account for long-term support, maintenance, equipment upkeep, data analysis, quality assurance, or resulting planning activities. Sustained long-term grant increases are essential to support ADEQ's expanding mission.

Phoenix Office

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Nationally, additional funds will support vital efforts, including advancing new programs, expanding existing clean air initiatives to protect vulnerable communities, enhancing pollution detection and visualization through air monitors and sensors, and supporting small business assistance programs. The demands of the Clean Air Act and the EPA have increased as standards have tightened and population and industry coexist in the same areas. Balancing human health, the environment, and growing industry in Arizona has never been more critical.

With new pollutants like Ethylene Oxide being identified and federal health standards continually lowering, such as the annual standard change for PM_{2.5}, the need for more short-term monitoring studies, long-term regulatory monitoring, and associated data analyses, modeling, and planning activities continues to grow. These increasing demands strain current staff, particularly for monitoring, data analyses, modeling and planning activities, especially given ongoing capacity challenges. Additional reporting and community/stakeholder engagement requirements recently finalized by the EPA further stretch ADEQ's resources. Without increased long-term funding, ADEQ cannot properly staff our planning, monitoring, and data analysis and quality assurance teams, nor hire and retain the skilled personnel necessary to fulfill our critical mission.

We are committed to improving air quality, but sufficient federal funding is essential. Please ensure that federal grants to state and local air quality agencies under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act are increased to \$500 million in FY 2025. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional information. I can be reached at (602) 771-4684 or czecholinski.daniel@azdeq.gov. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Daniel Czecholinski

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Daniel Czecholinski, CHMM
Director, Air Quality Division

cc: Chairs of Appropriations Committees
Chairs of Interior, Environment, and Independent Agencies Subcommittees



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Juan Ciscomani
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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