

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 20, 2026

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

We write to express our profound outrage at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) blatant attempt to weaponize environmental regulations to push a backdoor ban on contraception and medications used for abortion care.

The EPA's recent publication of "human health benchmarks" for water contaminants lists 374 drugs, including essential hormonal birth control like daily pills and the NuvaRing. While you claim these benchmarks are merely to "empower local decision makers," your own statements suggest a darker reality: this is laying the groundwork for sweeping state and federal restrictions on reproductive health care. This list must be taken in context with EPA's additional recent proposal to propose pharmaceuticals as a category on their draft Sixth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 6), which is the first step in setting regulations for drinking water contaminants. While it is critical that the federal government work to monitor and assess the risk of pharmaceuticals in drinking water, the inclusion of these reproductive health medications is clearly a coordinated, politically motivated attempt to restrict women's freedom under the guise of "drinking water safety".

It is unacceptable for the EPA to substitute ideological crusades for sound science. Equating safe, widely used, FDA-approved medications with industrial pollutants is scientifically baseless. These medications, particularly hormonal birth control, have been used and tested for decades with no previous reports or complaints of water contamination impacting communities. To hear anti-abortion extremist groups compare the negligible presence of progesterone blockers to the very real crisis of microplastics is absurd—but to see the EPA actively validate and invite this junk science is a dereliction of your duty.

Furthermore, we see exactly what your goal is with regard to the 60-day public comment period on drinking water contaminants, despite the fact that this is not formal rulemaking. By opening the door for extremists to flood the agency with demands to target mifepristone, the EPA is actively conspiring to do what right-wing fanatics have repeatedly failed to do in the courts, the FDA, and the halls of Congress: strip away access to the medication used in more than two-thirds of abortions nationwide. You have already targeted misoprostol and methotrexate under

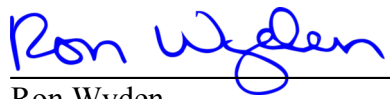
the guise of their other medical applications. The inclusion of hormonal contraceptives on this list further indicates that the Trump administration intends to target this mainstay of reproductive freedom relied upon by millions of women and married couples across the country.

The EPA's statutory mandate is "to protect human health and the environment" from actual, documented environmental threats—like lead pipes, PFAS "forever chemicals," and corporate polluters. Instead, your EPA has taken extreme efforts to weaken the health of the American people by allowing for higher emissions of mercury, arsenic, and lead from coal-fired power plants and proposing to rescind four 2024 PFAS limits in drinking water while delaying limits on two other PFAS chemicals. You have failed in your mandate, and now you want to exceed that mandate by policing the private medical decisions of American women.

This administration's attempt to co-opt environmental policy to wage a shadow war on reproductive rights is an egregious abuse of power. We demand that you immediately abandon this medically and scientifically bankrupt campaign, withdraw any guidance that targets essential reproductive health care, and return the EPA to its actual mission of protecting human health and the environment.

We expect a response by May 5, 2026, detailing the scientific, peer-reviewed justification for including contraceptives and abortion medications like misopristol, methotrexate, and mifepristone on your benchmark list, and a full accounting of your communications with anti-abortion advocacy groups regarding this policy.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator