

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. EPA
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Mike Martucci
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Administrator Zeldin and Regional Administrator Martucci,

As members of the New York State Senate, we urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to formally acknowledge that the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the upper Hudson River—from Hudson Falls, NY to Troy, NY—is failing to protect human health and the environment.

In January 2025, the EPA released its third five-year review report on the Hudson River PCB Superfund site (the FYR). The FYR concludes that a protectiveness determination for the upper Hudson River cleanup cannot be made until additional fish and sediment data is collected and analyzed. We strongly disagree. The EPA has ample scientific evidence to determine that the cleanup is not functioning as intended and is falling short of its original goals. As the newly-confirmed EPA Administrator—and as a fellow New Yorker—we urge you to take immediate action by issuing an addendum to the FYR that explicitly states that the cleanup is **not protective** of human health and the environment.

The continued presence of PCBs discharged by General Electric poses a significant and ongoing threat. These toxic compounds persist at dangerous levels throughout the Hudson River ecosystem—in soils and sediments within the river and the surrounding floodplains, in the tissues of wildlife, and in the river itself. For nearly seventy years, our constituents have borne the burden of living near a Superfund site, suffering the public health and economic consequences of PCB contamination.

The Hudson River is one of New York's most vital natural and economic resources. From the foothills of the Adirondacks to New York Harbor, the river serves as a corridor where diverse localities, industries, and ecosystems intersect. Its scenic beauty and ecological health are essential to the prosperity of the many communities that rely on it. As state legislators, we have worked tirelessly to revitalize the Hudson Valley through legislation and budgetary investments, but those efforts are continually undermined by lingering PCB contamination.

The failure to fully remediate the Hudson River jeopardizes not only public health but also economic growth. PCB pollution deters private and public investment, stifles development, and limits recreational and commercial opportunities along the waterfront. Without decisive action, these negative impacts will persist for generations.

Additionally, long-overdue action is needed in the lower Hudson River, south of Troy. The EPA must commit to a clear schedule for conducting a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to assess the full extent of PCB contamination in the lower Hudson's sediments, water, and wildlife. Without this critical study, the EPA lacks the necessary data to take the next steps toward remediation. The communities along this 160-mile stretch of the river have waited nearly forty years for meaningful progress, while PCB pollution has continued to harm wildlife, decimate the fishing industry, deter economic activity, and endanger public health.

The time for delay is over. We respectfully call on the EPA to take the following urgent actions:

- Immediately initiate an addendum to the third five-year review report, recognizing that the current cleanup is not protective of human health and the environment;
- Initiate a full RI/FS for the lower Hudson River to assess contamination levels and evaluate necessary remediation measures;
- Adopt a Record of Decision for the upper Hudson River floodplain to evaluate and select cleanup approaches to address PCB contamination in the floodplain;¹ and
- Ensure the Hudson River Superfund Office maintains its current staff to continue working towards a clean and healthy Hudson River.

These steps are critical to ensuring that the Hudson River is finally restored to a condition that protects both public health and the economic vitality of the region. We appreciate your prompt attention to this pressing matter and look forward to your leadership in advancing real solutions.

Sincerely yours,

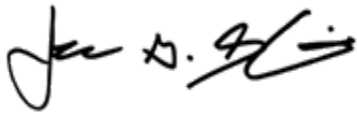
¹ The EPA has been investigating the Upper Hudson River floodplain, a 43-mile stretch between Hudson Falls and Troy, New York, since 2014.



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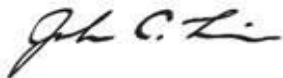
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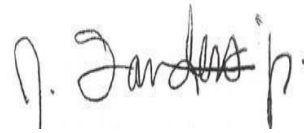
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