

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

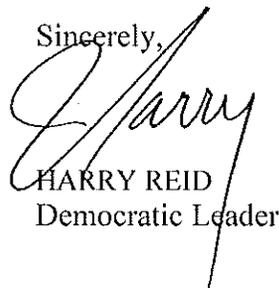
I write to support the President's budget request of \$1.13 billion to carry out the responsibilities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund).

Seventy million Americans – 10 million of whom are children – live within a few miles of a Superfund site. These Superfund sites, such as abandoned mines, can contain toxic contaminants that can be detected in drinking water wells, creeks and rivers, backyards, playgrounds, and streets. These sites not only present a danger to public health, but their negative impact on communities increase the longer it takes to clean them up. Failing to clean up these sites are a drain on local economies, discouraging investment and causing local property values to decline due to their proximity to contaminated land.

Thankfully, the funding provided for Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act has contributed to the cleanup of more than 1,000 sites around the country. These cleanups have improved the lives of millions of Americans. However, new sites continue to be added and robust funding is needed as the legacy of poor environmental laws continue to impact communities in every corner of the United States.

Thank you for your attention to my requests and your efforts in crafting this important appropriations bill. Please contact me or have your staff contact Alex McDonough or Ryan Mulvenon of my staff for more information at 202-224-1052 or 202-224-6970, respectively.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID
Democratic Leader