

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-1011

December 19, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

I write to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reinstate the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant award made to Emory University, which the EPA cancelled in May.

With funding from this grant, Emory University was researching ways to measure and mitigate children's exposure to lead, heavy metals, and other contaminants in West Atlanta. This research began following the discovery of dangerously high levels of lead in some West Atlanta yards.

This research was critical, as childhood exposure to heavy metals like lead can cause neurocognitive disorders, behavioral disorders, respiratory problems, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases, according to the National Institute of Health.¹ However, the Agency terminated this critical research in May – midway through Emory's work.

Children are precious, and their safety and well-being must be one of our highest concerns. The EPA's decision to terminate this research needlessly puts at risk the health and safety of children and families in West Atlanta.

I urge you to immediately reinstate funding for this critical research to better protect children in Georgia.

I request an update in writing within two weeks on the status of the reinstatement of funds.

Respectfully,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator