

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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April 14, 2017

The President

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies – I am writing you regarding the 2018 President's Budget eliminating Federal Law Enforcement Officers.

One of your assurances from your campaign was the support of law enforcement officers. Recently it has been brought to my attention that in an attempt by your administration to reduce unnecessary government spending, some departments are proposing the elimination of law enforcement positions. I need not remind you that federal law enforcement provides the overall protection to the public that supersedes state and municipal criminal violations. For example, federal law enforcement has access to state of the art laboratory and forensic investigative resources.

Reference is made to the March 21, 2017 Memorandum from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Chief Financial Officer David A. Bloom regarding the 2018 President's Budget. Within the Memorandum, there are items that propose the elimination of criminal enforcement positions that will result in the number of criminal investigators being further reduced below current levels. This is short-sighted at best and illegal at worst. The public relies on EPA criminal enforcement for protection from unscrupulous individuals who put society at risk with unsafe utilization of hazardous material. The examples of falsified tests and records resulting in catastrophes are legion. You cannot allow this to happen on your watch.

The EPA's criminal enforcement program was established in 1982 and was granted full law enforcement authority in 1988. The Pollution Prosecution Act of 1990 requires that EPA employ 200 Special Agents to combat environmental crimes. Many of the positions are currently unfilled. For example, there are currently only 160 special agents enforcing EPA laws and regulations. They

are located in 40 offices around the country and conduct between 700 and 800 investigations a year.

The EPA's criminal enforcement program focuses on criminal conduct that threatens people's health and the environment. So far this year, EPA investigators have prosecuted individuals for smuggling hazardous material, dumping hazardous material into rivers, the burial of hazardous waste, and false reporting of information. Recently EPA investigators fined a company \$9.5 million for falsely reporting safety violations that resulted in the explosion in the Gulf of Mexico.

FLEOA fully supports your commitment to weed out unnecessary government spending and programs, however, we urge you to maintain your promises to keep America safe through your unbending support for federal law enforcement. On a daily basis, our agents and officers risk their lives protecting our citizens.

FLEOA appreciates your time and effort regarding 2018 President's Budget eliminating Federal Law Enforcement Officers. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Dominick Stokes, FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs, at Dominick.stokes@fleo.org.

Respectfully,

Nathan R. Catura

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National President

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

CC: The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director, The Office of Management and Budget