

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2026

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

I am writing to express serious concern regarding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s recent decision to delay critical worker protection deadlines for hazardous chemicals, including perchloroethylene (PCE) and carbon tetrachloride (CTC). By postponing these safeguards, the EPA is weakening protections for workers, families, and surrounding communities and departing from its core mission to protect public health rather than advance industry interests.

In December 2024, the Biden Administration finalized long-overdue risk management rules for PCE and CTC pursuant to the bipartisan 2016 amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).¹ These safeguards were a core tenet of President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative, a whole-of-government effort to end cancer as we know it, and reflected Congress's bipartisan intent to equip the EPA with enforceable deadlines, science-based risk assessments, and greater transparency regarding chemical hazards.²

PCE is a well-documented carcinogen linked to liver, kidney, brain, and testicular cancers, as well as serious damage to the nervous, immune, and reproductive systems.³ At high concentrations, particularly in enclosed spaces, exposure to PCE has caused documented workplace fatalities and severe adverse health effects, underscoring the life-threatening consequences of delayed protections.⁴ The Biden Administration's final rule sought to ban PCE in all consumer products and most commercial uses, permitting only limited workplace uses subject to stringent controls designed to ensure worker safety.

Similarly, CTC is an extremely toxic substance linked to liver cancer, brain tumors, and adrenal gland damage.⁵ Although its use in consumer products was banned in 1970, CTC continues to be used in certain industrial processes. The 2024 rule prohibited its use in activities presenting unreasonable risk, while establishing robust protections for workers in facilities where CTC remains necessary for chemical manufacturing.

¹ "Biden-Harris Administration Announces Latest Actions under Nation's Chemical Safety Law to Protect People from Cancer-Causing Chemicals Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene." *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, 9 Dec. 2024, <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-latest-actions-under-nations-chemical-safety-law>; "Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule for Carbon Tetrachloride to Protect Workers." *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, 11 Dec. 2024, <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-final-rule-carbon-tetrachloride-protect-workers>

² "The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act." *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, 19 Mar. 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/frank-r-lautenberg-chemical-safety-21st-century-act>

³ "Public Health Statement for Tetrachloroethylene (PERC)." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 22 Jun. 2020, <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/PHS/PHS.aspx?phsid=263&toxid=48>

⁴ "Accident Search Results for Perchloroethylene." *The U.S. Department of Labor*, 25 Mar. 2026, https://www.osha.gov/ords/imis/AccidentSearch.search?acc_keyword=%22Perchloroethylene%22&keyword_list=on

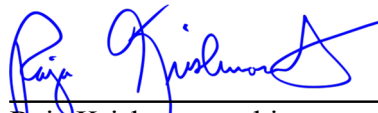
⁵ "ToxFAQs™ for Carbon Tetrachloride." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 25 Oct. 2011, <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/Tsp/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=195&toxid=35>

The EPA, under your leadership, is undermining the Workplace Chemical Protection Program by extending compliance deadlines specifically designed to shield workers from dangerous chemical exposure. These delays directly postpone the implementation of critical safeguards for those most at risk, including workers who handle hazardous substances every day. At a time when the science is clear and the dangers are well documented, any further delay only prolongs preventable harm and erodes the integrity of the protections established under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

This decision fits a deeply troubling pattern. According to a report by Politico, four of the five TSCA chemical risk management rules finalized under the Biden Administration are now under reconsideration.⁶ All five rules, along with the scientific framework that guided their development, remain subject to ongoing litigation in federal court.⁷ Meanwhile, compliance deadlines for other toxic chemicals, including trichloroethylene, have already been postponed five times, while long-promised updates for methylene chloride remain overdue. Each additional delay prolongs dangerous exposure and compounds preventable harm.

I urge the EPA to immediately reverse its decision to extend these deadlines and fully implement the strong protections established in 2024. Workers and families across the country deserve decisive action—not yet another delay—on safeguards specifically designed to prevent cancer, chronic disease, and toxic exposure.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

⁶ “EPA aims to delay more chemical rules.” *POLITICO Pro*, 24 Mar. 2026, <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2026/03/24/epa-aims-to-delay-more-chemical-rules-00842116>

⁷ “EPA chemical rules face litigation onslaught.” *POLITICO Pro*, 15 Jan. 2025, <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/01/15/epa-chemical-rules-face-litigation-onslaught-00198405?source=email>