

# BARACK OBAMA

October 20, 2008

John Gage  
National President  
American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO  
80 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President Gage,

I am writing to share my views with you regarding the importance of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in an Obama Administration.

The mission of the EPA is to protect the environment of the nation. In recent years, however, the pursuit of this goal has slowed, and in some cases, has been jeopardized outright. This is due to the failed leadership of the past eight years, despite the strong and ongoing commitment of the career individuals throughout this agency. During this same period, inadequate funding for the EPA has resulted in the ineffective allocation of resources, thus weakening enforcement and oversight of many environmental laws and regulations that protect the American people.

That's why I am committed to pursuing greater funding for the EPA so that its responsibilities are carried out. Clean water, land and air, and ensuring the health and safety of our citizens, especially children, will be high priorities in an Obama Administration.

In addition, EPA was established to be the nation's leader in environmental science, research, and education – yet these are the three fields which have been damaged by politics and ideology. I strongly oppose attempts by the Bush Administration to thwart publication of EPA researchers' scientific findings, as well as the attempt to eliminate the agency's library system. In an Obama Administration, the principle of scientific integrity will be an absolute, and I will never sanction any attempt to subvert the work of scientists.

Thank you, John, for all you and AFGE's members do for America, and for the protection of our environment.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



OBAMA FOR AMERICA PO Box 8210 Chicago, IL 60680  
[WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM](http://WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM)

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