

# GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Great Lakes Business Leaders Promise to Defend the Great Lakes Following Zeldin's Betrayal of the EPA

Yesterday, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin [unveiled](#) a hit list featuring 31 federal climate and health protections the administration plans to eliminate. The announcement, which does not carry the force of law, indicates his intention to stir chaos and confusion while prioritizing burning fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal over protecting clean air and clean water.

Business leaders from the Great Lakes Business Network (GLBN) decried the decision as short-sighted and bad for business. Co-chairs of the GLBN noted Zeldin's attempt to abandon the E.P.A. 's mission represents a direct threat to regional business owners who rely on clean air, healthy lakes, and predictable growing seasons.

"Standards set by the EPA are established to protect public health and the environment. Abandoning these twin pillars threatens our small family cherry farm. We know that climate change is real, I see the effects on my farm. These rollbacks will accelerate the climate crisis to the point where it will be too unpredictable to grow fruit in northern Michigan. We don't support rollbacks at the cost of clean water, clean air, and the ability to grow food" said Juliette King McAvoy, VP of Marketing and Sales at King Orchards.

"Zeldin claims that business will thrive in the dismantling of the EPA, but this is a fallacy, " said Pete Laing, co-owner of Mawby Winery and Vineyard. "Rolling back common-sense pollution regulations is dangerously short-sighted, threatening the health of our Great Lakes and fueling more extreme weather nationwide. While it might save huge corporate polluters a buck in the short run, this will hurt small mom and pop businesses and the communities we serve – especially ones like ours that rely on the health and vitality of the Great Lakes."

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