

Dear editor,

The world we live in is changing rapidly. We have more disasters and crises than ever before. [Reference a recent **well-known national** environmental health incident (e.g. train derailment, hurricane, flood, national outbreak).]

Hurricanes, tornadoes, and storms have intensified. Whole states now disappear behind the smoke from wildfires in another country. Our community is impacted too. [Describe a **local event** that was covered in the news e.g. PFAS contamination, big outbreak etc.]

The health of our environment influences our physical and mental health. A clean and safe environment encourages outdoor activities, community interactions, and a healthy lifestyle. Conversely, polluted environments expose us to harmful toxins and stressors, leading to health issues such as respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular diseases.

Did you know there are people right here in [city, state, town] working to protect you from environmental health risks every day?

These heroes are environmental health professionals. Thanks to the behind the scenes work of these scientists, we do not experience daily bouts of food poison or major disease outbreaks. We can trust the water we drink, the air we breathe, the restaurants we eat at, and the childcare centers we send our children to. These heroes protect and promote the health, safety, and economic prosperity of everyone, everywhere, all the time.

Alt 1: Unfortunately, the credentials and knowledge of this vital workforce are being questioned. There are requests to downgrade the science and credential requirements for these professionals– the very scientific knowledge of pathogens, toxins, and diseases that they need to keep you safe.

Let your [representative, community leader, city council] know that you want continued requirements for education, experience, and credentials in your environmental health workforce. Let them know that as the world continues to change, you expect that the people who protect your health have the support and credentials they need.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Alt 2 (think about them): The next time you eat at your favorite restaurant, drink a glass of water, or go to a swimming pool, remember to think of the environmental health professionals who keep you safe. Without them, our favorite everyday tasks would be a lot more risky.

Alt 3 (funding): Increased funding and resources are needed for this vital workforce to function at its full capacity. Let your [representative, community leader, city council] know that you want increased funding, and resources for your environmental health workforce. Let them know that as the world continues to change, you expect that the people who protect your health have the support they need to keep our communities safe.

Alt 4 (support and recognition): Unfortunately, this vital workforce does not always receive the recognition and support they deserve. Let your [representative, community leader, city council] know that you care about the environmental health workforce in your community. Let them know that as the world continues to change, you expect that the people who protect your health have the support they need to keep your community safe.