



May 25, 2021

Administrator Michael Regan  
US Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Administrator Regan,

We write to you with concern about your recent visit to Iowa, and to request a meeting with you to offer a different perspective on topics you discussed while in our state.

During your visit, in which you prioritized meeting with representatives of industrial agribusiness organizations, you commented, ["I think what we're trying to do is use the power of convening, get everyone to the table. And let's take an honest look at what has been working and what hasn't been working."](#)

Critical voices were missing from that table. It is clear that during your visit, you were given a predictably skewed impression of the state of Iowa's waters, and the leading role that industrial agriculture is playing in causing — and fighting efforts to address — Iowa's water pollution crisis.

The Raccoon River, which provides drinking water to half a million Iowans, was recently named one of the ten [most endangered rivers in the country](#), citing the grave threat that factory farms and other industrial agricultural polluters pose to drinking water. As Iowans face another summer of drought and water scarcity, algae blooms from this pollution are already [threatening the remaining water supply](#). And this is just one of Iowa's over 750 impaired waterways.

Our organizations have a long history of confronting industrial agriculture's practices here in Iowa and fighting to force our state government to hold this industry accountable. From 2007 until 2019, Iowa's Department of Natural Resources was the subject of a de-delegation petition before EPA, due to inadequate implementation and enforcement of the Clean Water Act as it applies to the thousands of unpermitted factory farms in our state.

More recently, we have [filed a lawsuit against the State of Iowa](#) for abdicating its responsibility to protect our waterways from the impacts of industrial agriculture by doubling down on the failed voluntary Nutrient Reduction Strategy and allowing the continued expansion of the factory farm industry across our state.

It is with this in mind that we invite you to "come to the table." The next time you are in Iowa, we request that you:

- Attend a community tour of impacted communities led by our members;

- Attend a community meeting to hear from us, our allies, and experts on the status of Iowa's waterways;
- Commit to keeping us "*at the table*" for all future meetings in Iowa.

We look forward to your response and to meeting with you in the near future.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Schmit', enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Emma Schmit  
Food & Water Watch

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Mason', enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Adam Mason  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement