

Message

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**From:** Brown, Ashley [Brown.Ashley@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/28/2025 4:39:20 PM  
**To:** Karakitsos, Anna [anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Brazauskas, Joseph [joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com]; Jennifer Bonner [jbonner@cement.org]; Spencer, Kyle [kyle.spencer@bracewell.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Portland Cement Association Invitation for Administrator Zeldin

Hi Anna,

This is in our scheduling process. Hoping to have more for you soon 😊

Ashley Brown  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Director of Scheduling – Office of Administrator

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**From:** Karakitsos, Anna <anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 11:04 AM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; ZeldinScheduling <ZeldinScheduling@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Brown, Ashley <Brown.Ashley@epa.gov>; Brazauskas, Joseph <joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com>; Jennifer Bonner <jbonner@cement.org>; Spencer, Kyle <kyle.spencer@bracewell.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Portland Cement Association Invitation for Administrator Zeldin

**Caution:** This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Hi Folks,

I'm checking in on this request to see if the Administrator might could be available to talk at the Portland Cement Association fly-in on April 1-2. We will have about 100 attendees. I'm happy to discuss more options if we need to.  
Happy Friday,  
Anna

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**ANNA KARAKITSOS**

Senior Government Affairs Advisor  
[anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com](mailto:anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com) | [download v-card](#)  
T: +1.202.828.1728 | F: +1.800.404.3970 | M: +1.901.337.0497

**BRACEWELL LLP**

2001 M Street NW, Suite 900 | Washington, D.C. | 20036-3310  
[bracewell.com](http://bracewell.com) | [profile](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)

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**From:** Karakitsos, Anna <[anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com](mailto:anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 2:51 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>; ZeldinScheduling <[zeldinscheduling@epa.gov](mailto:zeldinscheduling@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** [brown.ashley@epa.gov](mailto:brown.ashley@epa.gov); Brazauskas, Joseph <[joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com](mailto:joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Portland Cement Association Invitation for Administrator Zeldin

Hi Michael,

The event form is attached, and I've attached the rough agenda for the two-day fly-in as well.

Let me know what questions you might have as y'all work through this. As we get closer to the event, I can share the list of registered attendees — right now we have 75 confirmed.

Thanks so much,

Anna

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**From:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:28 AM

**To:** Brazauskas, Joseph <[joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com](mailto:joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com)>; ZeldinScheduling <[ZeldinScheduling@epa.gov](mailto:ZeldinScheduling@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Karakitsos, Anna <[anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com](mailto:anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Portland Cement Association Invitation for Administrator Zeldin

Hey Joe and Anna, can you fill out this form that is attached. I will talk with our scheduling team about setting something up.

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**From:** Brazauskas, Joseph <[joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com](mailto:joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:18 AM

**To:** ZeldinScheduling <[ZeldinScheduling@epa.gov](mailto:ZeldinScheduling@epa.gov)>; Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Karakitsos, Anna <[anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com](mailto:anna.karakitsos@bracewell.com)>

**Subject:** Portland Cement Association Invitation for Administrator Zeldin

**Caution:** This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Mike and team –

I am attaching a letter from the Portland Cement Association inviting Administrator Zeldin to attend our annual fly-in event at the beginning of April. We would be very grateful if the Administrator were able to participate. Happy to chat through the logistics and the format of this event - appreciate the consideration.

Thank you,

Joe

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**JOSEPH A. BRAZAUSKAS**

Senior Counsel

[joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com](mailto:joseph.brazauskas@bracewell.com) | download v-card

T: +1.202.828.1706 | F: +1.800.404.3970 | M: +1.202.579.2234

**BRACEWELL LLP**

2001 M Street NW, Suite 900 | Washington, D.C. | 20036-3310

[bracewell.com](http://bracewell.com) | [profile](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)

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ED\_018475D\_00000151-00002



Message

**From:** Louis Baer  
[lbaer@cement.org]  
**Sent:** 3/11/2025 7:25:43 PM  
**To:** McIntosh, Chad  
[mcintosh.chad@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Atkinson, Emily  
[Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov];  
Sean O'Neill  
[soneill@cement.org];  
Jennifer Bonner  
[jbonner@cement.org]  
**Subject:** Invite for Administrator  
Zeldin for PCA Fly-In  
**Attachments:** PCA Fly-In - Adminstrator  
Zeldin Invite.pdf

**Caution:** This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Chad:

I hope you are doing well. PCA submitted an invite to Administrator Zeldin to speak with our members, including CEOs, Government Affairs Representatives, and Environmental Leaders, during our industry Fly-In on Tuesday, April 1 or Wednesday April 2. Available times are included in the attached invite. We know he is very busy but please let us know if he is available and willing to come to our offices to speak. If he is not available, please let us know if there is an alternative speaker in either the Administrator's Office or Office of Air & Radiation that would be available. It would be very valuable for our members to hear about Administrator Zeldin's priorities and near-term agenda and discuss where the cement industry can collaborate with EPA. As we discussed on March 4, we would very much welcome the opportunity for Administrator Zeldin to visit a cement facility during his travels to learn more about the industry and can further coordinate on scheduling that opportunity.

Thank you very much. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best,  
Louis

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Louis A. Baer, Esq., CPEA  
Senior Director and Counsel, Government Affairs  
Portland Cement Association  
200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001  
Office: 202-719-1981  
Cell: 314-922-8041  
[lbaer@cement.org](mailto:lbaer@cement.org)  
[www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)



**Portland Cement Association**  
200 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 200  
Washington D.C., 20001  
202.408.9494  
[www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

The Portland Cement Association will be holding our annual PCA Cement fly-in for our members on April 1-2, 2025, at our office located at 200 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest. The meeting will include CEOs, government affairs personnel, and employees from the cement industry.

As you know, PCA represents the majority of U.S. cement manufacturers and is the premier policy, research, education, and market intelligence organization for the cement industry. The Association promotes safety, sustainability, and innovation in all aspects of construction, fosters continuous improvement in cement manufacturing and distribution, and generally promotes economic growth and sound infrastructure investment. Cement and concrete product manufacturing, directly and indirectly, employs approximately 610,000 people in our country, and our collective industries contribute over \$125 billion to our economy. Not only are cement and concrete essential construction materials and basic components of our nation's infrastructure, but our members are also fully committed to addressing climate change while maintaining a robust domestic cement and concrete industry.

One of the meeting goals is to present the attendees with an update on a number of burdensome government regulations before your agency, including the Portland Cement National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (PC NESHAP), Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Beneficial Use, and PM 2.5. As such, PCA requests your participation, for a thirty-minute fireside chat led by one of our member company CEOs. Available speaking times include April 1 at 10:00am, April 1 at 10:30am, April 2 at 8:00am, April 2 at 8:30am and April 2 at 9:00am.

We hope you will be able to fit this event into your busy schedule. If you have any questions, please contact Jenni Bonner at [jbonner@cement.org](mailto:jbonner@cement.org) or (860) 682-4752.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Ireland". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray background.

Mike Ireland  
CEO  
Portland Cement Association

Message

**From:** Louis Baer  
[lbaer@cement.org]  
**Sent:** 3/25/2025 7:14:07 PM  
**To:** McIntosh, Chad  
[mcintosh.chad@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Atkinson, Emily  
[Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov];  
Sean O'Neill  
[soneill@cement.org];  
Jennifer Bonner  
[jbonner@cement.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Invite for  
Administrator Zeldin for  
PCA Fly-In

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Chad:

I know you are busy but I wanted to follow up and see if Administrator Zeldin is available to speak to PCA CEOs and member leaders at PCA offices (200 Massachusetts Avenue NW) during our Fly-In on Tuesday. Please let us know if he is available at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, April 1 to speak and answer questions for 30 minutes. In the alternative, if he is not available at that time, we would love to have him attend our Fly-In reception taking place at the rooftop at 200 Massachusetts Avenue NW and he can come anytime between 5:30-7 PM. Please let us know if he has availability in his schedule. Our members would love to hear from him on his priorities at EPA and how the cement industry can partner with the Administration to meet his goals for regulatory streamlining.

Thank you very much. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best,  
Louis

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Louis A. Baer, Esq., CPEA  
Senior Director and Counsel, Government Affairs  
Portland Cement Association  
200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001  
Office: 202-719-1981  
Cell: 314-922-8041  
[lbaer@cement.org](mailto:lbaer@cement.org)  
[www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)

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**From:** Louis Baer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:29 AM  
**To:** 'McIntosh, Chad' <mcintosh.chad@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** 'Atkinson, Emily' <Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov>; Sean O'Neill <soneill@cement.org>; Jennifer Bonner <jbonner@cement.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Invite for Administrator Zeldin for PCA Fly-In

Chad:

I just wanted to follow up on our invite on the Fly-In. If there is an alternate from the Administrator's Office or the Air Office at EPA that would be available to come to PCA during the Fly-In, that would be much appreciated. Our members would love to hear from one of the leaders at EPA to discuss more of the announcement last week reconsidering many existing regulatory rules. Please let me know if you can help us arrange a speaker. Thanks so much.

Best,  
Louis

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Louis A. Baer, Esq., CPEA  
Senior Director and Counsel, Government Affairs  
Portland Cement Association  
200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001  
Office: 202-719-1981  
Cell: 314-922-8041  
[lbaer@cement.org](mailto:lbaer@cement.org)  
[www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)

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**From:** Louis Baer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 3:26 PM  
**To:** McIntosh, Chad <[mcintosh.chad@epa.gov](mailto:mcintosh.chad@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Atkinson, Emily <[Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov](mailto:Atkinson.Emily@epa.gov)>; Sean O'Neill <[soneill@cement.org](mailto:soneill@cement.org)>; Jennifer Bonner <[jbonner@cement.org](mailto:jbonner@cement.org)>  
**Subject:** Invite for Administrator Zeldin for PCA Fly-In

Chad:

I hope you are doing well. PCA submitted an invite to Administrator Zeldin to speak with our members, including CEOs, Government Affairs Representatives, and Environmental Leaders, during our industry Fly-In on Tuesday, April 1 or Wednesday April 2. Available times are included in the attached invite. We know he is very busy but please let us know if he is available and willing to come to our offices to speak. If he is not available, please let us know if there is an alternative speaker in either the Administrator's Office or Office of Air & Radiation that would be available. It would be very valuable for our members to hear about Administrator Zeldin's priorities and near-term agenda and discuss where the cement industry can collaborate with EPA. As we discussed on March 4, we would very much welcome the opportunity for Administrator Zeldin to visit a cement facility during his travels to learn more about the industry and can further coordinate on scheduling that opportunity.

Thank you very much. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best,  
Louis

---

Louis A. Baer, Esq., CPEA  
Senior Director and Counsel, Government Affairs  
Portland Cement Association  
200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001  
Office: 202-719-1981  
Cell: 314-922-8041  
[lbaer@cement.org](mailto:lbaer@cement.org)  
[www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)



Message

**From:** Louis Baer  
[lbaer@cement.org]  
**Sent:** 4/7/2025 6:36:35 PM  
**To:** McIntosh, Chad  
[mcintosh.chad@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Voyles, Travis  
[voyles.travis@epa.gov];  
Szabo, Aaron  
[Szabo.Aaron@epa.gov];  
Tardif, Abigale (Abbie)  
[Tardif.Abigale@epa.gov];  
Sean O'Neill  
[soneill@cement.org];  
Christine McCarthy  
[cmccarthy@cement.org];  
Hillebrand, Peter  
[Hillebrand.Peter@epa.gov];  
Elman, Barry  
[Elman.Barry@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** PCA Letter in Support of  
ENERGY STAR and Smart  
Sectors Programs  
**Attachments:** PCA\_Preserving The  
ENERGY STAR and Smart  
Sector Programs\_Final.pdf

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Chad:

I hope you are doing well and I know it is very busy over there at EPA. Attached is a letter that we have addressed to Administrator Zeldin outlining the cement industry's support for the ENERGY STAR and Smart Sectors programs at EPA and to preserve these programs during the Trump Administration as they are key programs to help the industry implement energy efficiency practices and maintain key discourse between the cement industry and EPA staff. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Best,  
Louis Baer

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Louis A. Baer, Esq., CPEA  
Senior Director and Counsel, Government Affairs  
Portland Cement Association  
200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001  
Office: 202-719-1981  
Cell: 314-922-8041  
[lbaer@cement.org](mailto:lbaer@cement.org)  
[www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)



**Portland Cement Association**  
200 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 200  
Washington D.C., 20001  
202.408.9494  
www.cement.org

April 7, 2025

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

**The Honorable Chris Wright**  
**Secretary**  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Preserving The ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> AND Smart Sector Programs

Dear Secretary Wright and Administrator Zeldin,

I am writing on behalf of the Portland Cement Association, which represents cement manufacturers across the country, to express support for the continued maintenance of the **ENERGY STAR** and **Smart Sector** programs, particularly as they relate to the cement industry. These programs drive energy efficiency and foster communication between our industry and the Administration.

**ENERGY STAR** has played a critical role in supporting our sector's efforts to increase operational efficiency. The program has been a vital tool in helping cement manufacturers reduce energy use, reduce emissions, and improve energy performance. Over the years, our industry has made substantial investments in energy-efficient technologies and practices, many of which were informed by ENERGY STAR's guidance and resources. For example, many cement manufacturers have invested in advanced energy management systems, high-efficiency equipment, and process optimization technologies. These investments not only improve the productivity of our operations but also contribute to the broader goals of reducing industrial energy use and promoting a more resilient energy infrastructure. For example, in the last ten years, the cement industry has improved energy intensity by 13% with total energy savings of 60.5 trillion BTU annually. Cement plants across America have also benefited from the ENERGY STAR certification program in that they have gained recognition for their energy efficiency efforts.

The **Smart Sectors Program**, launched during the first Trump Administration, has also played an important role in helping the cement industry engage with the Administration and identify sector-specific solutions for reducing environmental impacts. We hope that continued engagement with the program, which focuses on sector-specific challenges, will lead to tailored strategies that achieve both regulatory compliance and voluntary sustainability goals.



**Portland Cement Association**  
200 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 200  
Washington D.C., 20001  
202.408.9494  
[www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)

Given the importance of ENERGY STAR and Smart Sectors in the cement industry's shared goals with the Administration, I strongly urge you to continue supporting these initiatives. The continuation of these programs is critical not only for our industry but also for the nation's broader energy transition and environmental efforts. The cement sector is committed to advancing sustainability and energy efficiency, and we rely on the continued guidance, collaboration, and recognition that ENERGY STAR and Smart Sectors provide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I welcome the opportunity to discuss further how these programs have benefited the cement industry and how their continuation can support the Environmental Protection Agency's and Department of Energy's broader objectives in energy and environmental policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. O'Neill", is positioned above the typed name.

Sean O'Neill  
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs  
Portland Cement Association  
[soneill@cement.org](mailto:soneill@cement.org)  
(202) 719-1974

CC: Aaron Szabo  
Abbie Tardif  
Chad McIntosh  
Travis Voyles