

**Statement of Robert Perciasepe
Hearing on Nominations
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate**

July 8, 2009

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude and thanks to Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe for holding this hearing and to all the members of the Committee for their leadership.

I would also like to introduce Lee Palmer, my wife and our two amazing daughters Laura and Julia. They inspire me everyday.

I am humbled and honored to be nominated by President Obama to be the Deputy Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. I want to express my thanks to Administrator Lisa Jackson for her confidence in me and wanting me as a critical member of her team.

Public Service means so much to me. I started my career in Baltimore City and worked my way up to become the head of the entire city's construction budget, and

then, Assistant Director of Planning. My time there was rewarding and work at the community level where we often think the “rubber meets the road” is everything people say about it. I learned to manage large budgets, integrate work across city agencies, and be responsive to the citizens we served.

I was appointed to serve in the newly-created Maryland Department of the Environment. I held several jobs there and was finally appointed to the job of Secretary. Working with the rural western part of the State, the urban center, and the agricultural areas on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake was a necessary part of the job.

This experience grounded me firmly in the operations of State environmental agencies that work in partnership with EPA to achieve the environmental and public health goals set by Congress and our State legislatures.

In 1993 I had the honor of being appointed and confirmed as EPA’s Assistant Administrator for Water. I worked closely with State agencies and Governors on projects including the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River and Gulf, and improving implementation of key programs such as the state revolving fund and wetland

protection. I worked closely with Congress and this Committee on the reauthorization and improvement to the Safe Drinking water Act.

My service to EPA expanded when, in 1997, I was appointed and confirmed again to be the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation. I served in that position until 2001. Important work during that time included the revisions to gasoline fuel and tailpipe standards for automobiles and diesel fuel improvements coupled with heavy duty vehicle tailpipe standards.

I also would get personally involved with local issues, for example, I worked directly with Governor Kempthorne and his staff to resolve difficult air quality issues in Boise, Idaho.

All through my time at EPA I worked closely with members of Congress.

After leaving EPA I went to work for the National Audubon Society. Over the last 5 years I have been the Chief Operating Officer for them. In that role I have developed improved management structures to enhance the work of a very distributed organization (80 locations across the country with 23 State-level offices). An annual planning process to align work and annual benchmarks were a

key component of that. Audubon's budget performance has improved every year while we continued to grow key programs.

These experiences have prepared me for the job the President and Administrator Jackson are asking me to do. The Deputy Administrator at EPA can be seen as the Chief Operating Officer. My local and State experiences give me unique insight to EPA's work with States and communities; my time at EPA has built a strong knowledge of the work of some of the major programs and appreciation for the work force; and, recent experience as a Chief Operating Officer has enhanced my management skills.

Administrator Jackson has made transparency in EPA's work, assuring strong science, and rule of law cornerstones for EPA values. These values have guided me in my own career. As a foundation for these values, EPA must continue to soundly manage the public funds that we are the stewards for, and to assure that they are used most effectively toward environmental and public health protection. EPA needs to maintain a strong, empowered and motivated work force that serves proudly.

If confirmed, I will work with Administrator Jackson, to put all my skills and energy toward assuring the smooth and efficient operations of the day to day work and the longer term management of this remarkable Agency.