

Statement of Gary S. Guzy
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
August 4, 2009

Good morning and thank you, Madame Chairman and Ranking Member Inhofe. I would like to extend my thanks to you and the Ranking Member for holding this hearing. I also would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their thoughtful consideration and for the opportunity to meet with several of you last week.

I am so pleased to be joined by members of my family, who provide constant support for my doing the work that I do. I am joined by my wife, Sharon Sprague, who for the past twenty years has been a dedicated public servant in her own right, serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia, and my two wonderful children, Zoe and Zander, who inspire my work.

Madame Chairman and members of the Committee, I am deeply honored, grateful, and humbled by President Obama's decision to nominate me to serve as the Deputy Director of the Office of Environmental Quality.

Congress established the Office of Environmental Quality in 1970 to provide essential professional and staff support to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, who also serves as the Director of that Office.

CEQ has a distinguished forty-year history of service to our nation. CEQ:

- advises the President in the development of environmental policies and proposed legislation;
- identifies, assesses, and reports on trends in environmental quality and recommends appropriate strategies in response;
- oversees federal agency implementation of the environmental impact assessment process under the National Environmental Policy Act - NEPA; and
- coordinates and at times even referees federal environmental efforts.

CEQ's role is highlighted by the urgency and cross-cutting nature of climate change and other environmental challenges our nation faces. That is why – as President Obama seeks to reinvigorate our nation's commitment to environmental, public health, and natural resources protection – it makes sense to fill the position of Deputy Director and why five former Chairs of CEQ – from both parties – have called upon him to do so.

I believe that I have the breadth of skills, experience, and perspectives that, if confirmed, provide a strong foundation for assisting in meeting these challenges. I

have devoted my professional career to understanding and resolving environmental and climate concerns and have had the benefit of experience in business, government, and academia. I currently serve as Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary of APX, Inc, a relatively small entrepreneurial venture that is the leading provider of registry tracking systems designed to instill oversight integrity for each of the world's credible voluntary carbon standards and for virtually every renewable energy credit tracking system in the United States. I previously served as the Global Practice Leader for Climate Risk and Sustainability at Marsh, a Fortune 200 company that is the world's leading insurance broker and strategic risk advisor, where I developed and executed a comprehensive climate and sustainability program for Marsh and its parent, the Marsh and McLennan Companies. There I worked to help leading businesses understand the risks they face across their operations from climate change and the tools that they have with which to address this challenge. I also serve as an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Law at the Georgetown University Law Center, where I devised and teach the law school's first courses on climate change law and where I have contributed to the growing literature on climate risk management.

In government, I was privileged to have been appointed by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 1998 to 2001, as well as to have served before then as Counselor to the Administrator at EPA and as EPA's Deputy General Counsel. In those several roles, I assisted in resolving issues from enhanced air quality and tail pipe emissions standards, to the protection of children's health, to addressing threats to key ecosystems. Before that, I was a Trial and Senior Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment & Natural Resources Division, handling major environmental litigation from the Everglades to Alaska.

As I go about my work, I think back to my early childhood - living in Newark, New Jersey, with my mother, a single parent and a dedicated public school teacher. From those experiences I recognize that a government that is caring and honest and open can make a difference in the lives of ordinary citizens. From the child with asthma to coastal communities facing enhanced risks, government can provide essential hope and protection. I think back to my many days I have been privileged enough to spend on a bicycle traveling across America's back roads, and realize that the legendary natural bounty that has defined our nation merits stewardship.

I also think back to my first day on the job as a young law clerk for Judge Elbert Tuttle, former Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta. Despite his then 30 years on the bench, after an already long and distinguished career in private practice and the military, I was so struck that he was vitally interested in my relatively inexpert views. From him I learned that keeping an open mind and being attentive to absolute fairness of process for all affected parties is also essential to the ultimate success of our work. This openness of thinking -- this reaching out to hear all perspectives, no matter how long or hard we have been immersed in an issue -- is critical to improving the quality of the government's analysis and decisions. Also critical is maintaining the highest of

ethical standards. All tempered by balance, common sense, and judgment. These are values that, if confirmed, I will strive to take to my job every day and to continue to instill in CEQ's staff.

If confirmed as Deputy Director, my substantive focus will be to work alongside Chair Sutley to ensure that there is a strong scientific and legal basis for our environmental policy; move the nation to greater reliance on clean energy and to increased energy security; combat global warming while growing the green economy; provide increased protection for public health and the environment, especially in vulnerable communities; and protect and restore our great ecosystems. If confirmed, I look forward to a close and cooperative relationship with the Committee and its staff in carrying out this vital work.

Much has changed in the forty years since CEQ's founding. Gone should be the myth that protecting our environment, public health, and natural resources comes at the expense of a prosperous economy. Rather, a healthy environment is critical to our continuing prosperity and our environmental challenges provide enormous opportunities to revitalize our economy. Gone should be the notion that government and the private sector must be at loggerheads on the environment. Rather, enhanced cooperation between government and the private sector, tempered by appropriate levels of rigorous oversight, is critical to spurring innovation and promoting the successes that will allow the nation to thrive. And gone should be the notion that the environmental pendulum should keep swinging from lack of protection to seemingly onerous regulation, with no common ground for action in between. With this perspective, I am hopeful that we can find enduring, productive and sustainable solutions to the great challenges we face.

Thank you. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.