

**Statement of Nancy H. Sutley**  
**Hearing on Nominations**  
**Committee on Environment and Public Works**  
**United States Senate**  
**January 14, 2009**

Thank you, Madame Chairman. I would like to extend my thanks to you and Ranking Member Inhofe for holding this hearing, and to you for the generous introduction. I also would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their thoughtful consideration and for the time that many of them set aside to meet with me earlier this month.

I am pleased to be joined by members of my family – my parents, sister, brother and their families.

Madame Chairman and members of the Committee, I am greatly honored to be President-Elect Obama's choice to chair the Council on Environmental Quality. I have committed more than twenty years – the last fifteen in public service – to protecting public health and the environment and to energy and climate-change issues. I have devoted much of that time to harmonizing the efforts of multiple agencies covering different – and in some cases overlapping – aspects of environmental concern. I also bring the experience of working on environmental policy at the federal, state, and local levels, and a resulting appreciation of the role that each level of government plays in protecting public health and the environment. I understand that no one has a monopoly on creative and innovative ideas and policies that promote sustainability and a strong economy. The sum of this experience has given me a special appreciation for the coordinating role that the Council on Environmental Quality plays.

The President-elect has stated that a strong, sustainable economy and a healthy environment can and must go hand in hand. The President-elect also has emphasized that meeting our environmental and energy challenges is one of the great needs of our time. The Council on Environmental Quality will play an important role in coordinating the efforts of the federal government to build a cleaner environment and a sustainable economy and future for our nation.

I currently am Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment for the City of Los Angeles, where the Mayor has put a priority on greening the city. I spent six years in state government in California, using my environmental and energy experience, serving as Deputy Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency, as an energy advisor to California Governor Davis, and finally as a member of the California State Water Resources Control Board. I also spent six years at the US Environmental Protection Agency – both at Headquarters in Washington, DC and at Region 9 in San Francisco – working on innovative strategies to reduce air and water pollution.

I am strongly committed to the mission of the Council on Environmental Quality and the objectives of the National Environmental Policy Act. If confirmed as Chair, I

will carry its responsibilities with all that I have learned and with all my energies. I recognize the need to have economically sound environmental policy as part of CEQ's mission.

Madame Chairman, as you know, Congress created the Council on Environmental Quality in the National Environmental Policy Act. The Council's statutory responsibilities fall into three categories.

First, the Council administers the Act's requirement that federal agencies prepare environmental impact statements before undertaking major actions that significantly affect the environment. My goal if confirmed will be to administer that requirement in a straightforward, organized, and efficient way that assures the public that the federal government understands its environmental responsibilities as it carries out its activities.

Second, the Act directs the Council to prepare and present to the President and the American public reports on the state of the environment, on environmental trends, and on the environmental impacts of government policies and activities. My goal if confirmed will be to make those reports relevant, concise, and credible.

Finally, the Act assigns the Council the responsibility to develop and recommend to the President policies for improving environmental quality. My goal if confirmed will be to help coordinate environmental policy across the federal government and ensure that those policies protect all of our communities. The Council will work with federal agencies and departments and within the Executive Office of the President to ensure the best, most efficient and effective environmental outcomes.

My focus, if confirmed as Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, will be to ensure that there is a strong science and policy basis for our environmental policy, to move the nation to greater reliance on clean energy and increase energy security, to combat global warming while growing the green economy, to protect public health and the environment, especially in vulnerable communities, and to protect and restore our great ecosystems.

My parents came to the United States in search of a better life. I learned the values of hard work and integrity from them. They also taught me how important it is to give back to the community, and I have devoted much of my career to public service. I have tried to honor those values by working toward protecting our communities and our environment. If I am confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee and the Congress and to carry out the goals of the National Environmental Policy Act and the mission of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Thank you, Madame Chairman.