

STATEMENT OF ANN ELIZABETH DUNKIN
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BEFORE THE
SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
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Good afternoon Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Vitter and other members of the Committee.

It is my honor to appear before you as President Obama's nominee to be the Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Before I begin, I want to thank my partner, Kathleen, for her support today and throughout this process. I also want to thank my nephew Dylan, whom I had the honor to raise, for taking time away from his first professional job to be here today.

While they are no longer with us, I also want to acknowledge my parents for making it possible for me to be here today. My mother started programming in the 1950s at the University of Pennsylvania – one of two women in her class at Wharton. She has been a lifelong role model for me. My father who believed that all of his children – including his daughters - could do anything they set out to do, inspired me to pursue my dreams, even in the male dominated fields of engineering and technology.

My father's family is full of engineers and I have always loved technology. So it was no surprise that I studied engineering in college. I chose industrial engineering because I cared about people and systems as well as things.

After graduating from the Georgia Institute of Technology, I joined Hewlett Packard, where I worked for nearly twenty years. I started as a manufacturing engineer and quickly moved into manufacturing management, where I learned the core values that were embodied in the HP Way and that, even today, guide my work as a leader; values such as treating people with trust and respect, always acting with integrity and accomplishing results through teamwork.

Over time I moved from manufacturing management to software quality to research and development to operations and then to information technology, earning progressively more responsibility along the way. I worked on many exciting projects and programs ranging from running operations for HP's entrepreneurial internet startup businesses during the dot.com boom to developing tools to support printer R&D to managing the IT organization for Indigo, an Israeli digital press manufacturer that HP acquired. My final position at HP was back in R&D as the program manager for a major new product development program.

Throughout my time in HP's technology-intensive environment, I learned how to manage, lead, and optimize technology functions. And since people are any organization's greatest asset, I learned how to work with and lead people at the same time. From managing a small development team to leading a group of 500 as a program manager, I developed my professional expertise in designing and running technical organizations in one of the best technology companies in history.

After I left HP, I joined the Palo Alto Unified School District as the Director of Technology and, later, as the Chief Technology Officer, where I am responsible for envisioning, procuring, and supporting technology solutions to enable the work of 12,500 high-achieving K-12 students along with nearly 2000 faculty and staff.

While I loved building exciting new technology at HP, I have found that working for the Palo Alto Unified School District and helping every student and staff member achieve their potential has been far more meaningful. Working in the public sector has allowed me to contribute more profoundly to my community than working in the private sector.

I come to work every morning knowing that my work, and that of my team, is improving the education of every child in our District. I am proud of what we have accomplished in the time I have been with the District. If confirmed, joining the Environmental Protection Agency would be a natural next step in my personal and professional development, as it would be an opportunity to contribute not just to my local community, but to impact the entire country; to help improve the quality of life for every American.

While I have not yet directly worked in the environmental field, I have had a lifelong concern for environmental issues. Having grown up in the 1970s, I was part of a generation that experienced the nation's increasing awareness of the importance of caring for our environment. Hewlett-Packard was an early leader in environmental stewardship and environmental considerations were always high on our list of concerns in both product development and operations. In Palo Alto we emphasize environmentally sound practices such as safe technology recycling, reduced energy use, and overall environmental sensitivity.

I was thrilled to have been nominated to this job and look forward to the chance to bring my experience and expertise to bear for this country. Should I be confirmed, it would be my honor and privilege to serve as the Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information for the EPA and I would work every day to be worthy of the opportunity.

Thank you Chairman Boxer and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to meet with you today. I am happy to answer any questions.