

STATEMENT OF JANET MCCABE

NOMINEE FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION, UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Thank you, Chairman Boxer.

Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Vitter, and other Members of the Committee: Thank you for holding this hearing. I am honored to appear before you and grateful for the time you and your staff have spent with me prior to today.

I would also like to thank the members of my family who are here with me today: my husband Jon Laramore and my children Peter, Alice, and Dan. I think of them every day and am so grateful for their support.

It is a great honor, and very humbling, that President Obama has nominated me to serve as Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. For the past four and a half years, I have had the privilege of working in that Office to help fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. After a career of almost 30 years working at the state level to improve air quality and to protect the health of American families and communities, this opportunity is an incredible honor and responsibility, one that I take very seriously.

In the decades since the Clean Air Act was enacted, our air is cleaner and safer and our economy has grown and prospered. If confirmed, I will consider it my responsibility to work with all parties to continue that progress, so that both the environment and the economy can provide for current and future generations.

The Office of Air and Radiation has an important role over the coming years to continue to protect Americans from air pollution, especially the most vulnerable among us, including our children and seniors. We also must take thoughtful and reasonable steps to address the threat of climate change. Responding to climate change is an urgent public health, safety, national security, economic, and environmental imperative that presents great challenges – and great opportunities.

As a Hoosier, I know this very well. Indiana has been, and continues to be, a strong manufacturing state. A reliable and affordable energy supply is vitally important to its economy. And coal is a big part of that. In my 12 years at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, I worked with industries across the state, as well as public health and environmental groups, to implement clean air laws in a common sense way that made progress in improving air quality and supported jobs and businesses. When I worked for Improving Kids' Environment, a children's health non-profit in Indianapolis, the significance of addressing air pollution and climate change for future generations hit home even harder, as I worked one on one with families across Indiana wanting a healthy start and a healthy future for their kids.

I'd like to mention three things about how I will carry out my responsibilities, if confirmed. First, working for state agencies in two states has taught me that government—at whatever level—works best when all perspectives are at the table, when there is openness to good ideas,

wherever they come from. I'm proud that people from my home state, from across the political spectrum, were able to say when I was nominated that I was willing to listen. I am already applying this approach while serving as Acting Assistant Administrator and will continue to do so if confirmed.

Second, we must base our decisions on sound science, a transparent record, and the law. I am proud of the strong scientific and technical expertise in the Office of Air and Radiation, and throughout EPA, and proud of the Agency's work with the scientific community to make sure that our decisions are appropriately grounded in science. If confirmed, I will make sure that we continue to do our work that way.

Third, I will continue to bring to my job my understanding of the state perspective. Implementing the Clean Air Act is a partnership—EPA and state, local, and tribal governments—and EPA must be mindful of those perspectives as it develops national rules and programs so that they will be able to be implemented and effective.

I know from the conversations we have already had that the Members of this Committee, and the other nominees beside me, share a passion for public service. I look forward, if confirmed, to working closely with you to faithfully execute the Clean Air Act. We all want to serve the American people by providing a safe and healthy environment and the opportunity to enjoy it in a strong and growing economy. I am grateful for your considering my nomination.

Thank you very much and I look forward to your questions.