

**STATEMENT OF REGINA A. MCCARTHY
HEARING ON NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
UNITED STATES SENATE
APRIL 2, 2009**

Thank you Madame Chairman.

I first want to thank Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe for holding this hearing, as well as all the Committee members who have taken the time to express their thoughts today and who have been willing to meet and speak with me over the past weeks.

If I may, I would like to begin by introducing my husband Kenneth McCarey and my three wonderful children, Daniel, Maggie and Julie who are the greatest joy in my life, as well as my sister Elaine who for years has studied and taught the history of this great nation to her middle school students and is amazed and perhaps even more excited than I am to be here. And I also want to recognize all of the McCarthy/McCarey clan who are back home in Massachusetts today. When two large Irish families merge – you're never alone again. And that's a good thing – well, most of the time. I do want to thank them for all their years of love and support.

I am deeply honored and thrilled to be nominated as Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency by President Obama and to be speaking before you today. I cannot thank Administrator Lisa Jackson enough for wanting me to be part of her team at EPA during a time when there is so much that needs to get done but also such great promise and opportunity.

For the past 25 years I have worked on air quality, radiation and climate issues. In particular, for the past 10 years I have overseen a number of critical air policy and climate decisions in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and, most recently, the State of Connecticut where I have been the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection for the past four years. In these capacities I have been deeply involved in the development of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Connecticut state law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and efforts to combat NO_x, SO_x and Mercury emissions. Simply put, I care deeply about these issues.

As we all know, the science around air quality, radiation and climate is very complex. In fact, some of most complex scientific modeling and assessments underway within the Environmental Protection Agency take place within the Office of Air and Radiation. And I am sitting here today not because I am a scientist, but because, like President Obama and Administrator Jackson, I intend to leave the science to the scientists.

If confirmed I will reach out to the EPA's scientists who work so hard to inform our health risk and impact assessments and to define our environmental challenges. I commit to this Committee that I will fully consider their work in each and every decision I recommend to the Administrator. Science will be the backbone of our decision-making process. That is what Administrator Jackson has promised, and that is what I will deliver.

If confirmed I will sit with the air, radiation and climate policy and program staff who I already know to be smart, capable, dedicated and passionate public servants who came to EPA to protect public health and the environment. I am going to ask them how we can get the job done in ways that not only meet the letter of the law but the spirit of the law. The rule of law will be the fundamental principle that will guide our actions. That is what Administrator Jackson promised, and that is what I will deliver.

And then I am going to open a few windows in my office and around OAR so we can let in some fresh air – that is, if the windows of our building actually open. There is a lot of work to be done and we need clean, fresh air – and fresh ideas. Administrator Jackson has made a promise that her EPA will be transparent in its decision-making, and that is what I will deliver.

Transparency is more than sharing what the science and the law is telling us with Congress, with our partners the states, with the regulated industry, with environmental advocates and with the communities and people we serve. Transparency is even more

than making clear decisions that can stand the test of time, which we all recognize is of paramount importance.

Transparency is also about letting in and embracing new ideas, technologies and approaches. No individual, entity or agency, no matter how smart, how old or how experienced, can afford to stop learning. I can attest through my own personal experience that brainstorming with oneself is never very productive. In fact, the most successful people and agencies are not only open to new ideas, they actively seek them out. So, if I am confirmed, OAR will reach out for the best and brightest ideas we can find in the world today, so we can be better prepared for the challenges ahead and all that the future may bring.

Above all else, if confirmed, I will keep OAR's eyes on the real prize: saving lives by protecting our environment. Air pollution kills people and makes people sick – a lot of people – each and every day, each and every year. And climate change, if greenhouse gas emissions remain unchecked, has the potential to rob my children (Dan, Maggie and Julie) and to rob all children, of their rightful future. So my deliverable, if confirmed, will be clean air and federal leadership on climate.

If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to reach out, listen and learn both inside and outside the agency, on behalf of Administrator Jackson. I will speak plainly and truthfully about the lives being lost, the responsibilities we face, the challenges ahead, the options we have and the opportunities we can realize as we face the future together.

Thank you.