

Testimony of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE HEARING

On the Nomination of Paul Anastas

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

I'm grateful to Senator Boxer for this opportunity to express my strong support for Paul Anastas to be Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development at EPA.

Mr. Anastas is currently the Director of the Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale University, and I believe he's an outstanding choice for this important position. His strong background in environmental research and policy in the Executive Branch and academia has given him an impressive understanding of the importance of cooperation at all levels of government, the private sector, and NGOs in pursuing national policies.

Such cooperation will be especially important at a time when the Administration and this Committee, under the leadership of Senator Boxer, are developing a major initiative to control greenhouse gas emissions and prevent climate change.

The challenge we face on these issues is urgent, and we have delayed too long already in meeting it. I'm proud that a leader from Massachusetts will be at the forefront of this effort in the Obama Administration, especially since coastal states such as ours are facing an increasingly grave threat from rising sea levels.

As the lead division for EPA's scientific mission, the Office of Research and Development is especially important in pursuing the technological advances and data collection needed to improve environmental health. The expertise of Mr. Anastas in "green chemistry" will be particularly valuable in preventing dangers from toxic chemicals.

I urge the Committee to approve the nomination of Mr. Anastas, and I look forward to working with him and the Committee on these fundamental issues in the coming weeks.