

## Blumenthal Statement

- Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, thank you for letting me appear before your Committee today.
- It is with great pride that I introduce Brenda Mallory, nominee to Chair the Council on Environmental Quality, before the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
- The new Administration made a wise decision by selecting Brenda for this important role. It is an honor to speak on her behalf as this committee considers her nomination.
- While Brenda and her family have resided in Maryland in recent years, Brenda has deep roots in Connecticut. We are claiming her as our own.
- Her father, Reverend Thomas Mallory, was a legend in our state—well earned by his strong dedication to his community.
- Brenda followed in this noble tradition, doing our state proud.
- She received a scholarship to attend a prestigious all-girls private school, Westover, which she credits as changing the trajectory of her life, opening doors to many new opportunities, as a good education can do.
- Brenda was the first in her family to attend college - Yale University.
  - Brenda and I share the Yale University experience.
  - I also share experience with Brenda's husband, Mark Schneider, who clerked for Justice Blackmun. (I clerked for him in the 70s, Schneider clerked for him in the mid-80s)
- After graduating from Yale and then Columbia Law School, Brenda spent time in private practice, working with developers and businesses, learning the processes they must go through to advance projects in accordance with the law.
- With that experience, she joined the Environmental Protection Agency and spent half of her career fighting for the people of our state and our nation--serving in both Democratic and Republican Administrations.
- Most recently, she has worked for non-profit organizations to help advance environment and natural resource protections.
- Brenda knows the issues from every side.
- Her commitment to protecting our environment and the people reliant upon it is second to none.
- When I spoke with Brenda recently, she told me that one of her personal strengths is working with and listening to people that have varying beliefs to find solutions that meet

a broader goal. I know that this ability will serve her well while taking on the great environmental challenges of our time at the Council on Environmental Quality.

- Congress established the Council on Environmental Quality under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, pronounced “Nee-pah”). The Council is responsible for overseeing federal agencies which implement NEPA and develops and recommends environmental policies to the Administration.
- I have no doubt that Brenda will develop robust ideas for the Administration with a keen understanding and awareness of the importance of protecting public health and environmental justice.
- It is imperative for the federal government to take commonsense and aggressive efforts to push for cleaner, healthier energy, and take action to end environmental racism.
- I am more than confident that, if confirmed, Brenda has the fearlessness and vision to lead real environmental change that can remediate our current climate crisis on a much needed large scale.
- I urge my colleagues to swiftly confirm Brenda Mallory, so that we can begin the long process of recovering from the damage that has already been done to our communities and planet.