

Amanda Howe
Nominee for Assistant Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Mission Support

Good morning, Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and distinguished Members of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee for Assistant Administrator for the Office of Mission Support at the Environmental Protection Agency.

I am joined here today by my wife, Ellen. My mom, Gail - my sisters, Erin and Ashley and my brother-in-law Michael are joining me remotely. My three nieces are joining me as well: Vivian, 9, Fiona, 6, and Maeve, 4. I am proud to be the godmother to all three of my nieces. I am grateful for all their support.

I am an American citizen, but I was born in Canada; two years after President Nixon and Congress formed the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970. They were responding to Americans' concerns about air and water pollution and were inspired by the first pictures of earth taken by astronauts.

I grew up on Lake Ontario, one of the Great Lakes that the EPA was formed to protect. I am a beneficiary of EPA's noble efforts. As a lover of the outdoors, I

know we must strive to be in harmony with nature to protect our trees and our majestic oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams for future generations.

I have always believed in the value of public service. Early on, I was remarkably fortunate to have a mentor, who gave me the best career and life advice - "Always ask yourself – am I using my talent, my skills, for good? If the answer is yes, you won't go wrong." From that came my own motto: "go for the good." I bring that spirit to everything I do.

My first job in the states, 20 years ago, was working on Mark Warner's campaign for governor in Virginia. I was impressed with how he appealed to both Republicans and Democrats. I was impressed that he found a way to make progress in a divided state government.

I have spent every year since working on behalf of the American people, in several capacities across local and state government.

I served newly-elected Governor Warner as Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade.

As Assistant Secretary, I worked closely with the 16 agencies of the Secretariat to advance a bipartisan agenda that delivered for all Virginians.

Later, I was honored to serve Governor Tim Kaine as the Executive Director of Virginia's Royal Welcome in 2007. We built a team to coordinate the official visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip for two full days. I went from state agency work to coordination with Buckingham Palace, the British Embassy, Scotland Yard, the FBI, and the Secret Service -- and gained an appreciation for the operation of large-scale, world-class events and organizations.

My work with Governor Kaine led to working at the Democratic National Committee as Chief Operating Officer for three years, and later as Deputy Chief of Staff and then Acting Chief of Staff to the Mayor of New York City.

I oversaw the Mayor's Office of Appointments, Citywide Event Coordination and Management, the Mayor's Office of Correspondence and Constituent Services, the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, the Mayor's Office of Administrative Services, Scheduling and Executive Operations, Advance, the Mayor's Office of Special Projects and Community Events, and NYC Service.

In New York, I was grateful to see, first-hand, the impressive and incredible dedication of city workers rising to meet every challenge to improve people's daily lives.

I have also worked in the non-profit sector including as Vice President of the American Council on Renewable Energy. There, I helped lead WIREC, the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference, hosted by the US State Department of President George W. Bush.

Each of these roles is different but shares a common thread – a focus on transparency, collaboration, logistics and operational know-how.

I was drawn to working for the U.S. government and in public service because the American dream isn't just an individual dream. It is a collective dream that envisions a brighter future through mutual understanding of our shared challenges, hopes, and aspirations.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with and supporting the incredibly talented and dedicated EPA career staff. There is no higher mission than to protect

the health and safety of our people and our environment, our two most precious resources.

Thank you again Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and distinguished members of the Committee for the opportunity to be with you today. I look forward to your questions.