

**Statement of Susan Parker Bodine
Nominated to be Assistant Administrator,
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
June 7th, 2017**

Chairman Barrasso, Senator Carper and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the privilege of coming before you today as the nominee for the position of Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. I am honored that President Trump, Administrator Pruitt and this Committee are considering me for this position.

I would also like to thank my many current and former colleagues for their support and friendship.

I have worked on environmental issues for my entire professional career, as a practicing attorney, as a member of the professional staff of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as a former EPA Assistant Administrator, and as a member of the professional staff of this Committee.

If confirmed as the Assistant Administrator for OECA, I would bring with me an extensive background in the environmental laws that OECA enforces. I strongly support those laws and the goals of protecting public health and the environment.

I also would bring my past experience in managing an EPA headquarters office and my deep respect for the career staff who do the day-to-day work of carrying out the responsibilities that Congress has given EPA.

I appreciate that most of our environmental laws are built around the framework of cooperative federalism. Under cooperative federalism, states and the federal government have important and complementary roles in implementing federal environmental statutes.

I also fully appreciate that we cannot protect public health and the environment unless the regulated community complies with the law. Enforcement is a critical tool to achieve that compliance. Compliance with the law by everyone also creates a level playing field for the regulated community. By enforcing environmental laws OECA helps to create that level playing field.

Of course, to comply with the law, the regulated community needs to understand what is expected of them. Sometimes our statutes and regulations are less than clear. OECA plays an important role in making sure that there is clarity and consistency in how our environmental laws are interpreted, and providing assistance when the laws are less than clear. If confirmed, I would look forward to working with the EPA program offices and with states to provide that clarity and consistency.

Those who have worked with me know that I use a collaborative and inclusive approach to tackling complex environmental issues. For the Assistant Administrator of OECA this means collaboration and consultation with states that are authorized to carry out their

own laws, in lieu of federal law, states that are delegated the authority to carry out federal law, and EPA program offices that write the regulations that implement the statutes that Congress writes.

I also understand the need to communicate. When I say “communicate” I mean listening as well as talking. Communication with the environmental professional staff at EPA is an important managerial responsibility. Communication with state agencies is a critical part of cooperative federalism. Communication with the regulated community and environmental groups provides important feedback. Finally, communication with the public and Congress helps build support for the agency’s mission.

If confirmed by the Senate, I would embrace the responsibility for assuring compliance with environmental laws. I know we share the goal of protecting public health and the environment. I know we share the goal of making environmental regulations clear and understandable.

I want to work with everyone to achieve these goals.

In particular, I am very excited about the opportunity to work with Administrator Pruitt as a member of his team as we create a driving force for economic growth as well as environmental protection; promote a culture of environmental responsibility; and continue to ensure compliance with our nation’s environmental laws.

In closing, I look forward to any questions you or your colleagues may have. Thank you.