

Carlton Waterhouse
Nominee for Assistant Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Thank you, Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and Members of the Committee.

I am honored to appear before you this morning.

I am humbled to be nominated by President Biden and considered by this Committee for the position of Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I look forward to engaging with you, hearing about the Committee's priorities, and discussing how the Office of Land and Emergency Management will support communities across the country in protecting human health and the environment.

I would like to acknowledge my family who is here with me today: My wife Courtney, my father Robert Sr., my mother Lois, my sister Diane, my brother Bob, my daughter Nia, and my son Joshua.

I have dedicated my career to public service, inspired by my parents' service. My parents instilled in me the value of hard work, public service, and faith. My father grew up in the Jim Crow South in a small town in east Texas. He joined the Army at seventeen to escape the mistreatment that he and other African Americans lived through daily and to find new opportunities. He served faithfully in the segregated army, a difficult time in our nation's military, and was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant. My father, a decorated combat

veteran, is the recipient of a purple heart and was awarded other medals for his service in the Korean War. He retired from the United States Army following twenty years of military service and then dedicated twenty more years through the 1970s and 1980s as a civil servant running commissaries for our troops and their families in Virginia and Alaska. In fact, it was our drive from my hometown of Newport News, Virginia to Anchorage, Alaska that provided me with an early appreciation for the natural beauty of our country and the wonder of the world in which we live.

My mother likewise spent over thirty years of her life as a civil servant, including ten years serving with the International Trade Commission. She worked her way up from an entry level clerk to become an office manager before she retired. She, like her mother, my grandmother, demonstrated persistence in the face of adversity. My grandmother worked as a server for many years in an all-white country club in my hometown that continued to exclude blacks and other people of color from membership through my time attending law school. We never dropped her off or visited her at work as African Americans were not welcome there—except as workers. Despite the significant challenges that each of them faced for things that they could not control, they confronted the obstacles before them and persisted, ultimately placing their faith in GOD.

Like them, my faith guides and undergirds my life. As a first-generation college graduate, I must admit that I had real doubts about my ability to go to college and to graduate. In those years, my faith sustained me and provided the sense of purpose and direction that has guided me ever since. I have dedicated my career to public service and advocating for people who have

been underserved and overlooked within society. This drive led me to enroll in the Howard University School of Law and to focus on civil rights and environmental law.

After law school, I accepted an offer from EPA's Region 4 office to join the office of regional counsel. My nine plus years of service with EPA working in the region, and later in headquarters, gave me firsthand experience of environmental protection at the ground level where people experience the worst effects of pollution. I represented the agency as the lead attorney in enforcement cases under the Clean Water Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, and the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act, but the bulk of my time was spent working within the Superfund and the Resourceful Conservation and Recovery Act programs.

In Superfund, the Smith's Farm Superfund Site stands out among the many for which I provided legal reviews of remedial investigation and feasibility studies, proposed plans, records of decisions; oversaw information gathering, the issuance of administrative orders to perform cleanup, and the creation of settlement agreements while serving as the agencies lead negotiator in settlement negotiations with scores of potentially responsible parties. That site covered roughly 500 acres due to decades of disposal of waste. Working together, the Remedial Project Manager and I created a waste allocation that enabled a \$40 million settlement for the site clean-up and recovery of EPA costs.

Under RCRA, I enforced statutory and regulatory requirements by facilities treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste, along with assisting states with obtaining the initial approvals for the RCRA Subtitle D Sanitary Landfill Program. My regional work also included serving as the region's lead attorney on environmental justice. In that capacity, I met with community members and EPA staff to find ways to address community concerns at Superfund and RCRA sites and worked with the regional administrator's staff and agency managers to develop regional policies for addressing environmental justice. I was truly humbled to be recognized by the agency for my work and to be awarded Bronze Medal awards on four separate occasions and numerous special act awards.

After leaving EPA, I pursued my doctorate in social ethics to learn how to create laws and policies that treated people rightly and promoted justice for all. As a law professor, I have focused my research and writing on correcting environmental and other social injustices. In addition to working with students, I dedicated my time to working with local community groups faced with environmental challenges in Indiana, Puerto Rico, and more recently, Maryland.

I've been fortunate to have spent my entire career on issues near and dear to me – issues that touch the lives of all our fellow Americans. Throughout my career, I've learned so much about the importance of forging consensus, listening intently to varied perspectives, and making decisions that put the wellbeing of our communities first. If confirmed, I would prioritize cleaning up legacy and emerging pollutants that burden urban, rural, and tribal communities and facilitating site redevelopment in collaboration with community members, local governments, businesses, and other stakeholders. It would be an honor to work with all of you in pursuit of

these goals and on behalf of the American people.

Thank you again for the opportunity speak before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.