

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
MARY FRANCES REPKO, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

November 23, 2020

Emily Murphy  
Administrator  
General Services Administration  
1800 F St NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Administrator Murphy:

I am deeply concerned that the General Services Administration (GSA) continues to delay providing resources and access to critical information to President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and their team as they prepare to take office in January. GSA must immediately ascertain the President-elect's clear election victory and assist in facilitating a timely and effective transition of power to the incoming administration, as required by the Presidential Transition Act of 1963. Failing to do so risks the health and safety of millions of Americans as the nation grapples with a pandemic that continues to grow more severe every week.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, I am particularly concerned that the Biden Administration (hereafter the Transition) is being hindered in its preparations to protect human health and the environment in several areas:

- **Air Pollution Exposure and Coronavirus Disease (COVID).** Lack of access to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) career officials and important environmental data prevents the Transition from further evaluating research demonstrating that air pollution leads to more adverse outcomes from COVID. This lack of access hinders the Transition's ability to prepare effective policies to address this health hazard.
- **Evaluation and Approval of Disinfectants amid the Pandemic.** The Transition's lack of resources and access to EPA information also risks possible delays in the evaluation and approval of surface disinfectants that can be used to ensure surfaces are free of the COVID-19 virus.
- **Management of Contaminated Sites.** The Transition must prepare the Biden administration to immediately and effectively manage the nation's Superfund sites. The Trump administration has added several sites to the National Priorities List this fall. The incoming administration needs to prepare to protect the health of communities at these contaminated sites and the safety of the drinking water supplies in surrounding areas. Of particular concern are the six sites that were added to the Superfund National Priorities List in September, affecting communities in Delaware, South Carolina, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Kansas, and

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California. Continued lack of access to information makes preparing to manage these sites that have long awaited cleanup more challenging.

I urge you to fulfill your lawful duty and immediately begin the process of facilitating an orderly transfer of power to the new administration, so that President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris can protect human health and the environment effectively on day one. Thank you for your attention to this matter of national safety.

Sincerely,



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Thomas R. Carper  
Ranking Member