

Statement of Senator Joseph I. Lieberman
Supporting the Confirmation of Dr. Paul Anastas

June 24, 2009

Thank you, Chairwoman Boxer.

I strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Paul Anastas to head the Office of Research and Development at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Anastas has distinguished himself as an exemplary professor at Yale, teaching courses within the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Department of Chemistry, and the Department of Chemical Engineering. In addition, he has been an outstanding Director of Yale's Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering.

Dr. Anastas also has an impressive list of credentials. He helped found the Green Chemistry Institute back in 1997, and from 1999 until 2004, he was the Assistant Director for the Environment in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Between 2004 and 2006, Dr. Anastas served as Director of the Green Chemistry Institute.

His list of awards and recognitions is as impressive as it is indicative of the outstanding contribution Dr. Anastas has made to his field. He has received multiple medals from EPA for his work and has accumulated nearly a dozen other awards for his transformative work in Green Chemistry over the past decade. In addition, he has been honored as a leading academic all over the world with a series of honorary degrees and professorships.

In 2006, Dr. Anastas was awarded the prestigious Heinz Award in the Environment for his work to advance the "green chemistry" movement, which has improved the health of our planet dramatically by helping to significantly reduce, and in many cases prevent, industrial waste. The contributions he has made to global efforts to minimize waste and save our resources have been undeniably impactful and environmentally valuable.

At the Office of Research and Development, Dr. Anastas will be EPA's head scientific researcher. I have great faith that his work will help EPA prevent pollution, protect human health, and improve our air, water and soil quality. I look forward to watching Dr. Anastas and Gina McCarthy, another leading environmentalist from Connecticut, excel in their new roles at EPA. I wish them both all the best.

Thank you.