

**Statement of Janet McCabe
Nominee for the Position of Deputy Administrator of the
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Before the
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
March 3, 2021**

Thank you, Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and Members of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you and am grateful for your time this morning.

It's humbling that President Biden has nominated me to serve as Deputy Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. If confirmed, it will be an honor to return to the agency and to work collaboratively with you, EPA's many partners and the wonderful EPA staff to protect the health of American families, communities, and our environment. I am eager for your questions today and to hear from you about your priorities for your constituents.

I would like to thank my family – my husband Jon, my children Peter, Alice, and Dan, and my 16-month-old grandson, who gives a whole new meaning to my work and commitment to creating a healthier, safer, and brighter future. I am grateful for their support.

Since the start of my career, I have had the privilege to contribute to creating healthier, more livable communities for all Americans. I learned early on how poor air quality can worsen asthma and other respiratory problems, leading to higher medical bills, missed days of school and work, and an overall diminished quality of life. Air pollution is connected with heart disease, cancer and birth defects. It shortens lives. These and other public health issues facing our fellow Americans have motivated my work.

I have spent most of my career working for state and federal environmental agencies in Massachusetts, my long-time adopted home state of Indiana, and at the EPA, with a focus on implementation of the Clean Air Act and other air quality issues. During my seven and a half years in EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, I worked on the entire range of air quality issues and became familiar with the core operations of the agency.

During that time, I got to know and admire many of the fine career staff. They come to work every day committed to helping the American people live healthier, more productive lives. I can't say enough about the public servants who do the work the public expects of them – from one administration to the next. At EPA, it's the scientists, the program staff, the regional teams, our environmental justice leaders, the individuals who support all agency operations, and so many more who truly fulfill the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment. If confirmed, it will be an honor to join them once in again and support their work on behalf of public health and the environment.

When I worked in the Office of Air and Radiation at EPA, I focused on the partnership between EPA and the states. I know from my experiences in both state and federal agencies that the federal-state partnership is fundamental to achieving progress, overcoming complex challenges, and delivering for the American people. This relationship requires openness, transparency, flexibility, and a willingness to listen, even if there are times when we do not agree. Being open and willing to listen to all stakeholders is how EPA should be doing its business. If confirmed, I would be guided by a commitment to fostering open dialogue and giving as many as possible a seat at the table.

While at EPA, I also worked hard to strengthen the relationship between the headquarters and 10 regional offices. We worked on streamlining reviews and approvals, improving communication with state partners, ensuring consistent implementation of national programs, and valuing the expertise that each staff person brought to the issues.

In addition to my government experience, I previously served as Executive Director of a small children's environmental health nonprofit in Indianapolis. Working directly with families worried about lead paint or clean water was extremely rewarding and gave me a better understanding of how challenging these issues can be for families around the country. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that all children can share equally in the promise of clean water to drink, clean air to breathe, and the opportunity to lead a healthy and productive life.

In my more recent work with the Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute, I have worked with many local governments in Indiana, developing resources and tools to help them address the environmental challenges they face, making their communities healthier and more economically vital.

From all of my experience, I know firsthand that our programs to improve public health and protect our environment are strongest when they are informed by a diversity of perspectives, and rooted in science, transparency, and the law.

As the grandmother of a baby grandson and with another grandchild due to arrive this month, I promise that if given the opportunity, I will work alongside our talented EPA staff to help ensure that all of our children and grandchildren can grow up in a cleaner, healthier, more equitable world.

If confirmed, I would be honored to work with Secretary Regan, if he is confirmed, and all of you to make that a reality. I look forward to your questions.

Thank you.

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