

Statement of Joseph Goffman
**Nominee for the Position of Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air
and Radiation in the United States Environmental Protection Agency**

Before the
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
United States Senate

May 25, 2022

Thank you, Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and Members of the Committee. It is a privilege to appear before you this morning.

I am humbled to be nominated by President Biden and considered by the Committee for the position of Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation at the United States Environmental Protection Agency. I am also grateful for the honor and opportunity to return to public service, having previously worked for the Members of this Committee in four different positions between 1989 and 2017. Being here before you today is truly an honor of a lifetime.

Joining me here today is my amazing wife, Antonia, and watching from their homes in San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles, are my three children – Gabriel, Genevieve, and Olivia. I want them to know how very much I love them and admire them for leading lives that reflect the values their grandparents gave to me – values that I have carried with me and relied upon all my life.

Like too many Americans, I grew up in a household that struggled financially. There were months-long periods when my father was unemployed, and my family could barely afford even the basics. As a child, I felt the pressures of my parents' money worries acutely. For me, protecting jobs and keeping money in the pockets of hardworking Americans is still very personal.

College was out of the question unless I worked hard enough in school to gain scholarships and financial aid, and hard enough after school and over summers, to earn the rest. That meant working as a stock boy and janitor's assistant in a department store during high school and in a union job as a line worker in a corrugated box factory during college. Besides giving me a strong work ethic, my parents insisted that I put the highest value in doing good – and with the civil rights movement of the 1960s gripping their and my own young admiring attention, the lesson I took away was that every person, including me, was responsible for making our society more just.

Working for the Committee in 1989 and 1990 gave me the chance to do just that. I was the lead staffer on the acid rain provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. That program, which used the then-novel idea of emissions trading, succeeded in achieving substantial power plant pollution reductions at the lowest possible cost to businesses and consumers while ensuring cleaner, healthier air for our children to breathe.

The legislation worked because it was grounded in science and crafted with the input and participation of utilities themselves. Since then, I made it my business as a Senate staffer and as an EPA appointee to prioritize engagement with all stakeholders, from frontline communities to workers to businesses, and to listen proactively, learn from others' experiences, and reflect their concerns. My goal has been, and continues to be, crafting smart, durable policy that protects the environment and people's health, while enabling our economy to thrive and American innovation to flourish.

I believe that commitment paid off in a range of Committee and EPA actions I have been fortunate to have contributed to over the years. The bipartisan McCain-Lieberman and Lieberman-Warner climate bills, the last of which was reported out by the Committee in 2007 and brought to the floor in 2008, EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards and Cross State Air Pollution Rules, and the automobile tailpipe emissions standards EPA issued last December, to cite a few examples, all achieved or will achieve ambitious pollution reductions while keeping costs down and protecting public health.

These actions eventually won strong support from the power sector and auto industry. Their perspectives, along with the voices of communities who have unjustly borne the burden of pollution, must continue to be front and center in the agency's decision-making.

This range of perspectives was critical to two other pieces of bipartisan legislation that this Committee helped enact – the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Inspired by your work, my EPA colleagues and I succeeded in meeting the deadlines you set in the AIM Act to stand up the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, for this year. And we are beginning to put infrastructure dollars to work in communities across the country. With the application window opening last week for the Clean School Bus program, we are moving quickly to get the funding into the hands of communities for electric and clean school buses – a significant achievement for the health of our kids and the climate.

These examples prove that when we work together, strive for consensus, and bring all stakeholders to the table, we can deliver strong, impactful results for the American people – results that will provide untold benefits for our health, economy, job creation, and the environment. If confirmed, I will approach all our decision-making through the same lens and with the integrity, transparency, and accountability that Administrator Regan insists on.

Members of the Committee, like you, I, too, share the belief that all Americans – no matter where they live or what they do for a living – deserve clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, a secure job and healthy, safe communities in which to raise a family. It would be a

distinct privilege to work alongside and support EPA's brilliant and selfless civil servants in this shared mission.

Thank you for the privilege of speaking to you today. I look forward to hearing your concerns and answering your questions.