UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

March 27, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

Knowing of your continued interest in the issues involving greenhouse gas emissions, I am writing to inform you of action I have taken today to move the Agency forward to examine these critical issues.

In the time since the Supreme Court's *Massachusetts v. EPA* decision I have benefited from extensive briefings by EPA staff as they worked to develop an initial response to that decision and I carefully considered how EPA should best move forward.

As we were working on this response, Congress passed and the President signed the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) which, among other things, expanded EPA's authority over renewable fuels and required the Department of Transportation to coordinate with EPA on its CAFE regulations. Thus, the EISA represents a statutory change that will have concrete effects upon the emissions of greenhouse gases though it does not change EPA's obligation to provide a response to the Supreme Court decision. In the weeks following the passage of this law, I considered a range of options for how to move forward.

In doing so, EPA has gone beyond the specific mandate of the Court under section 202 of the Clean Air Act and evaluated the broader ramifications of the decision throughout the Clean Air Act. This review has made it clear that implementing the Supreme Court's decision could affect many sources beyond just the cars and trucks considered by the Court, including schools, hospitals, factories, power plants, aircraft and ships. In fact, the Agency currently has many pending petitions, lawsuits, and deadlines that must be viewed in light of the Supreme Court's decision.

During this review, I considered the option of soliciting public input through an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) as the Agency considers the specific effects of climate change and potential regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary and mobile sources

under the Clean Air Act. I have concluded this is the best approach given the potential ramifications.

Such an approach makes sense because, as the Act is structured, any regulation of greenhouse gases – even from mobile sources – could automatically result in other regulations applying to stationary sources and extend to small sources including many not previously regulated under the Clean Air Act. Consequently, any individual decision on whether and how sources and gases should be regulated may dictate future regulatory actions to address climate change. My approach will allow EPA to solicit public input and relevant information regarding these interconnections and their possible regulatory requirements.

This approach gives the appropriate care and attention this complex issue demands. It will also allow us to use existing work. Rather than rushing to judgment on a single issue, this approach allows us to examine all the potential effects of a decision with the benefit of the public's insight. In short, this process will best serve the American public.

In the advance notice EPA will present and request comment on the best available science including specific and quantifiable effects of greenhouse gases relevant to making an endangerment finding and the implications of this finding with regard to the regulation of both mobile and stationary sources.

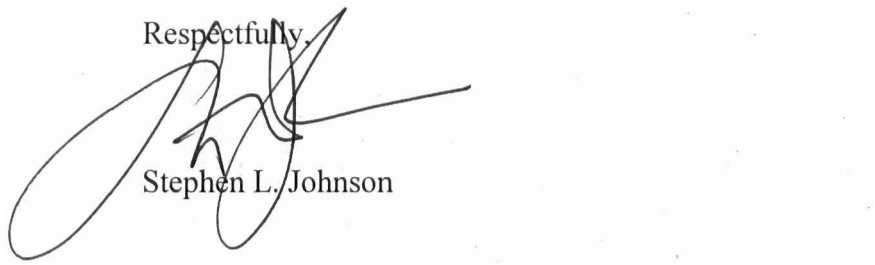
In addition, exploring the many relevant sections of the Clean Air Act, particularly those raised by groups requesting that we regulate greenhouse gases, we will highlight the complexity and interconnections within various sections of the Clean Air Act. EPA's advanced notice will also seek comment, relevant data, questions about and the implications of the possible regulation of stationary and mobile sources, particularly covering the various petitions, lawsuits and court deadlines before the Agency. These include the Agency response to the *Massachusetts v. EPA* decision, several mobile source petitions (on-road, non-road, marine, and aviation), and several stationary source rulemakings (petroleum refineries, Portland cement, and power plant and industrial boilers).

The advance notice will also raise potential issues in the New Source Review (NSR) program, including greenhouse gas thresholds and whether permitting authorities might need to define best available control technologies. If greenhouse gases were to become regulated under the NSR program, the number of Clean Air Act permits could increase significantly and the nature of the sources requiring permits could expand to include many smaller sources not previously regulated under the Clean Air Act. This notice will provide EPA an opportunity to hear from the public and from states on these issues.

In order to execute this plan, I have directed my staff to draft the ANPR to discuss and solicit public input on these interrelated issues. This advanced notice will be issued later this spring and will be followed by a public comment period. The Agency will then consider how to best respond to the Supreme Court decision and its implications under the Clean Air Act.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me or EPA's Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Chris Bliley, at 202-564-5200.

Respectfully,



Stephen L. Johnson

cc: Majority Leader Harry Reid
Minority Leader Mitch McConnell