Statement of Mathy Stanislaus
Hearing on Nominations
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Please allow me to first express my gratitude to Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe for holding this hearing to all Members of the Committee for their thoughtful statements; and to those of you for taking the time to meet with me over the past weeks.

If I may, Madam Chairman, I would like to introduce my wife, Suganthy Siva, and my parents who immigrated to this country to provide the very kind of opportunity that I am being presented with here today.

I am deeply honored that President Obama has nominated me for the position of United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. If confirmed, it would be a privilege to work with and for Administrator Lisa Jackson to protect human health and the environment.

President Obama and Administrator Jackson have affirmed two core values for EPA to uphold during this Administration: scientific integrity and the rule of law. As both an environmental lawyer and a chemical engineer, I understand and – like President

Obama and Administrator Jackson – believe that science and the law must be the foundation for sound environmental decisions. I pledge to uphold to this commitment.

The President's commitment to the rule of law is the hallmark of a principled regulatory agency. EPA needs to exercise its policy discretion in good faith and in keeping with Congressional and court directives. I respect this Committee for its diligent efforts to hold EPA to the rule of law, and I pledge to uphold this principle every day if I am confirmed.

I started my career as Assistant Regional Counsel in 1988 for the EPA in its New York regional office focusing on the Superfund program and leading the implementation of newly enacted Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). Since then I worked in the private sector, as an advisor to the EPA, Congress and the United Nations and currently co-direct New Partners for Community Revitalization, Inc., a not-for- profit brownfield development organization.

Based on my 20 years of work in brownfields, Superfund and solid waste programs, I believe that lack of transparency and participation from communities in government decisions have resulted in a legacy of decisions that have left certain communities being burdened by contaminated sites and waste facilities.

I strongly believe that solution to addressing this failure requires engaging all key stakeholders and ensuring transparency in decision-making. In particular, I believe that it

is critical that government take the extra effort to provide access and information to those in our society who are most burdened by pollution.

There is an opportunity to address both the public health and economic burdens of contaminated sites and waste facilities. A key principle the challenges of contaminated sites and solid waste facilities is the forging of a common agenda and partnerships among diverse stakeholders including environmental and environmental justice organizations, local governments, not-for-profit brownfields organizations, businesses, developers and financiers.

In conclusion, if confirmed, I pledge to uphold the laws by which the EPA is directed, to conduct the affairs of the office in a transparent and open manner, to be responsive to the inquiries of this Committee and Congress and to uphold the mission of the EPA – to protect human health and the environment.