Testimony of Senator Burr for the Nomination Hearing of Michael Regan

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Capito, I appreciate the opportunity to come before the Committee today to introduce Secretary Michael Regan as you consider his nomination to be Administrator of the Environment Protection Agency.

Secretary Regan is a proud North Carolinian, born and raised in Goldsboro and a graduate of North Carolina A&T University. He has made a career in environmental policy including more than nine years at EPA and most recently serving as Secretary of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality. It is always a pleasure to introduce someone from your home state, especially one with whom I have had the pleasure of working, and is qualified for the position.

I believe Secretary Regan's tenure in North Carolina can tell us much about how he will approach our shared desire for clean air and clean water with the need to ensure we do not unnecessarily limit economic opportunities, *especially as we try to jump start the economy following the last year of shut downs and quarantines.*

North Carolina is blessed by beautiful coastlines and mountains, as well as some of the most fertile agricultural lands in the country. As Secretary of the state's Department of Environmental Quality, Secretary Regan was able to find the right balance by reaching out to stakeholders and ensuring that the department's relationship with rural communities, whose life blood is agriculture, was constructive not adversarial. To underscore this, Secretary Regan's nomination is supported by over 20 of the largest agricultural organizations in the country. These organizations and their state associations understand they will not always agree with every decision handed down by EPA, but they know and trust they will receive a fair hearing.

It is my belief that Secretary Regan will bring the same qualities, experiences, and values of environmental stewardship while balancing the needs of rural communities to his new role as Administrator, and I look forward to supporting his nomination.