STATEMENT OF PAUL ANASTAS
HEARING ON NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
UNITED STATES SENATE
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Thank you Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Inhofe, and the members of the committee. It is a pleasure to be with you here today and would like to introduce you to my wife, Julie, and our 22 month-old daughter, Kennedy.

I am honored to be nominated to serve as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. When I was a boy growing up in Quincy, MA just south of Boston, I lived on an idyllic wetland. When it was replaced with an office park, I was inconsolable. My father, a biology teacher, took me aside to explain to me that if you really wanted to protect the environment, it was important not only to care about it, you also had to learn about it and understand it. As he did with so many things in life, my father put me on the right track to being a scientist and an environmentalist.

Long before I became a faculty member at Yale University where I am today, I was a GS-11 level chemist at EPA. Nearly 20 years ago to this day, I began my first day on the job. I was fortunate to have some of the best mentors any 27 year old could hope for that taught me some of the most important lessons of my career.

1. Integrity, in all things and especially in science. I believe we would all agree that it is essential to the very foundations of our efforts to protect human health and the

environment that it be based on science that is sound, uncompromised, unbiased, and apolitical. This has been at the center of what I have pursued in my career and will be a value I bring to the Office of Research and Development if confirmed.

2. Innovation. The challenges we face of clean air, water, land, and ensuring a sustainable civilization are serious. If we are to meet these challenges in a way where economic prosperity and environmental prosperity are achieved simultaneously, it will require the best of the innovative spirit of this nation. I believe the excellent scientists at the Office of Research and Development have that innovative spirit and can look at new challenges in new ways to be even more creative in our environmental solutions.

3. Interdisciplinary. While our core traditional disciplines remain the backbone of our scientific endeavors, the opportunities we face of doing things more creatively and effectively will require an interdisciplinary approach. By working across disciplinary and organizational boundaries, we can expect a renaissance in environmental protection.

4. Inspiration. The old story goes that an old man passed by two men working on the side of the road cutting stones. The first was cursing and grousing and the old man asked what he was doing and he replied "I'm chipping at these stones with a dull chisel and hitting my thumb with my hammer." The old man asked the second worker who was singing and whistling, what he was doing and he replied, "I'm

building a cathedral!" To be inspired by your work is not merely a luxury, it is often essential to the effectiveness of the work getting done. I can think of few more inspiring missions than that of the U.S. EPA and especially the Office of Research and Development.

With these values as pillars, if confirmed, I will work to provide Administrator Jackson with the highest quality scientific information as a basis for her policy decisions. I will make openness and transparency a hallmark of the work of ORD. I will seek out new approaches, perspectives, and methods to advance our knowledge and understanding of environmental and health problems as well as to our generation of solutions to those problems.

In closing, I am very fortunate that I have a near perfect life in my small town of Guilford, CT – wonderful family, nice home, wonderful students and colleagues at Yale – and yet I am tremendously eager to begin my duties here at EPA, if confirmed. The reason is simple. I consider the work that I would be doing – to use science to advance the protection of human health and the environment - as an extension of my love for my daughter in trying to give her a better future and of my dedication to my students in showing them that the work they are doing is as important as it is difficult.

I thank the committee for the chance to meet with you today and I'll be happy to answer any questions.