



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Capito  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee  
on Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Carper, and Ranking Member Capito:

As a coalition of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, the BlueGreen Alliance writes in full support of the nomination of Brenda Mallory to serve as Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

This nomination comes at a critical time for our country. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll and it is nowhere close to done. Months into this pandemic, workers continue to struggle to stay safe and healthy on the job and our economy is ravaged. At the same time, we went into this pandemic with three ongoing and closely related additional crises: economic inequality, racial inequality, and climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic has cast a harsh spotlight on just how severe and disproportionate the impacts of these crises are.

The Council on Environmental Quality plays a critical role in driving coordination across the federal government in its mission to protect America's public health and environment. Brenda Mallory is highly qualified, with decades of experience at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and as general counsel to CEQ during the Obama Administration. Brenda Mallory also brings a deep understanding of the importance of incorporating environmental justice and community consultation into federal decision-making. In her role at The Climate 21 Project, she helped to deliver recommendations to the Biden Administration underscoring the role that CEQ could play in elevating environmental justice issues and equity in the White House. She is the right person for this job, and will work to advance the mission of CEQ in ways that will strengthen our communities and tackle the underlying crises of climate change, economic inequality, and racial justice.

As we work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic in ways that create and sustain good-paying, high-quality jobs and ensure a cleaner, safer, more equitable economy, the CEQ will

need leadership that will mobilize and coordinate a whole-of-government approach. Importantly, CEQ has the responsibility of overseeing the review and permitting process for major infrastructure decisions. To address the interlinked crises we're facing and jumpstart economic recovery, we must move forward on an ambitious agenda to rebuild and transform America's infrastructure and there are many shovel-ready projects ready to go. Following President Biden's commitment to modernize and improve environmental review, these processes must ensure effective environmental review and public participation, while also prioritizing the staffing, structure, and resources needed to ensure these projects move forward and deliver benefits and jobs to communities and workers quickly.

Brenda Mallory is the right person for this job. And she can bring her leadership and experience to CEQ to do this critical work in ways that lifts up communities and workers and prioritizes investments in workers and communities that need it most.

We urge you to swiftly confirm this nominee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Walsh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Walsh  
Executive Director  
BlueGreen Alliance