



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 Janet McCabe as Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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 BlueGreen Alliance unites America's largest and most influential labor unions and environmental organizations to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy. Janet McCabe is the right person to take this vision forward at the EPA, with extensive knowledge of environmental law and decades of experience working on critical issues such as air quality, climate change, and children's environmental health. During the Obama Administration, she served as the acting assistant administrator for the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, and will bring a depth of institutional knowledge to this position. She can work to advance the mission of the EPA to protect human health and the environment in ways that address the ongoing health and economic crises, create and sustain good union jobs, and strengthen our communities—all while simultaneously tackling the underlying crises of climate change, economic inequality, and racial injustice.

The new leadership at the EPA has the opportunity—and duty—to restore the work of the agency to protect communities and implement and enforce key protections, like the nation's industrial safety rules that help protect communities, workers, and emergency responders from

catastrophic industrial incidents; long-standing safeguards like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, which have protected our environment and public health for decades; critical programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Chesapeake Bay program, which protect regional watersheds; and millions of dollars in critical infrastructure programs—like those that support our nation’s drinking water infrastructure.

Janet McCabe is the right person for this job. And she can bring her leadership and experience to the EPA to do this critical work in ways that lifts up communities and workers and prioritizes investments in workers and communities that need it most—including frontline communities and those workers and regions impacted by energy transition.

We urge you to swiftly confirm this nominee.

Sincerely,

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

Jason Walsh
Executive Director
BlueGreen Alliance