

Testimony of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE HEARING

On the Nomination of Regina McCarthy

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Chairman Boxer, I appreciate the opportunity to offer my strong support for President Obama's nominee, Regina McCarthy, to be the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation at EPA.

Ms. McCarthy is an outstanding choice for this important position. Her strong background in environmental policy at the state and local levels have given her a sharp understanding of how essential it is to have the cooperation of all levels of government, the private sector, and NGOs in pursuing broad national policies affecting the environment.

Such cooperation will be especially important at a time when the new Administration and this Committee, under the extraordinary leadership of Senator Boxer, will be developing a major initiative to control greenhouse gas emissions and prevent climate change.

This challenge is urgent, and we have delayed too long already in meeting it. I'm proud that a leader from Massachusetts will be at the forefront of this effort in the Obama Administration, especially since coastal states such as ours are facing an increasingly grave threat from rising sea levels.

The breadth of issues involving the Office of Air Quality span all forms of pollutants, from reducing vehicle emissions to improving indoor air quality; from controlling environmental health impacts to encouraging new technology to make the nation less dependent on fossil fuels. The mandate is broad, and Regina McCarthy is an excellent candidate for this position.

I urge the Committee to approve her nomination, and I look forward to working with her and the Committee on these fundamental issues in the coming weeks. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.