



National Association of State Energy Officials

January 29, 2021

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Moore Capito:

On behalf of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and our members – the governor-designated State Energy Directors from the 56 States, Territories and the District of Columbia – we offer our endorsement for the confirmation of Secretary Michael Regan to serve as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). During Administrator-nominee Regan’s tenure leading the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which oversees \$2 billion in assets and 1,600 employees, he demonstrated a willingness to engage and listen to stakeholders and set a bold course to achieve the governor’s goals. Administrator-nominee Regan proactively collaborates with local, state, federal, and private-sector officials to address the climate, energy, environmental justice, and economic goals of North Carolina – qualities that are the hallmark of a successful EPA Administrator.

Administrator-nominee Regan’s exceptional leadership and collaborative approach was displayed when Governor Cooper called on DEQ to create a strong Clean Energy Plan for North Carolina. Administrator-nominee Regan was deeply engaged in the plan’s development, which was led by the North Carolina State Energy Office, which is located within DEQ. The process included extensive work with various state agencies, such as the public utilities commission, as well as business leaders, local governments, community groups, and others interested in the state’s future. The resulting first-of-its-kind plan in the Southeast aims to make the state’s power sector carbon neutral by 2050. The success of the process employed to create the plan resulted in NASEO sharing it as a “best practice” approach with many other states.

Administrator-nominee Regan has also effectively mitigated and addressed numerous high-profile environmental situations during his tenure in North Carolina, much as he would as Administrator of EPA. For example, his navigation of a utility settlement to clean up coal ash sites around the state was critical to addressing this serious environmental and health issue. His ability as a skilled consensus builder who understands the balance between environmental protections and economic growth was essential to his successful resolution of this situation. He also drew upon his years of experience working for EPA as a career official during President George W. Bush’s Administration, where he served as a special assistant to the president’s Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation among other roles.

1300 North 17th Street
Suite 1275
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Telephone: 703.299.8800
www.naseo.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair
KELLEY SMITH BURK
Florida

Vice Chair
JOHN WILLIAMS
New York

Treasurer
MOLLY CRIPPS
Tennessee

Secretary
WILL TOOR
Colorado

Past Chair
ANDREW MCALLISTER
California

Parliamentarian
JASON LANCLOS
Louisiana

Regional Representatives

DAN BURGESS
Maine

PATRICK WOODCOCK
Massachusetts

DAVE ALTHOFF
Pennsylvania

MARY BETH TUNG
Maryland

MITCHELL SIMPSON
Arkansas

SUMESH ARORA
Mississippi

MICHELLE GRANSEE
Minnesota

CHAD KRUSE
Illinois

MICHAEL FURZE
Washington

JOHN CHATBURN
Idaho

EDDY TREVINO
Texas

DAN LLOYD
Montana

Affiliates' Co-Chairs
ELIZABETH BEARDSLEY
U.S. Green Buildings Council

MATTHEW MORRISSEY
Ørsted

Executive Director
DAVID TERRY

General Counsel
JEFFREY C. GENZER

We believe that Administrator-nominee Regan's approach to leading EPA will be respected by many on both sides of the aisle. It is important for our country that EPA has a strong leader and consensus builder who understands the unique and important role of the states. We urge the Committee to move quickly, and we strongly endorse Administrator-nominee Michael Regan's confirmation.

Best regards,

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

David Terry, Executive Director, NASEO

CC: State Energy Directors