



February 11, 2021

Mr. Michael S. Regan  
Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
217 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

Dear Secretary Regan,

On behalf of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA)<sup>1</sup>, congratulations on your nomination to serve as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). AAPCA's state and local members, responsible for protecting the air quality of nearly 150 million Americans, welcome you as the Agency's Administrator-select. We look forward to engaging you and your staff as the Administration's priorities are developed and initiated.

Your experience in leading the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality underscores the primary role of state and local governments in environmental protection. Built on the foundation of cooperative federalism, the Clean Air Act has proven a successful framework for productive partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels that have led to remarkable improvements in air quality since 1970.<sup>2</sup> With core work still to be done and a range of evolving issues, these partnerships continue to be critical as U.S. EPA enters its sixth decade.

Efforts to better understand and address issues like emerging compounds, environmental justice, and wildfires require extensive cooperation among all stakeholders. State and local environmental agencies, delegated with permitting, planning, enforcement, and regulatory authority, are dedicated to working hand-in-hand with federal counterparts to find best-possible solutions that are informed by diverse social, geographic, and economic factors. Alongside Clean Air Act responsibilities, these agencies are also interested in engaging U.S. EPA in other areas that impact their work, including resource challenges, risk communication, staff training,<sup>3</sup> monitoring networks,<sup>4</sup> best practices for air pollution control,<sup>5</sup> and air sensors<sup>6</sup> and other technological innovations.

As U.S. EPA Administrator, you will confront a broad range of challenges, some specific to media programs, like the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), and others, like community

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<sup>1</sup> AAPCA is a national, non-profit, consensus-driven organization focused on assisting state and local air quality agencies and personnel with implementation and technical issues associated with the federal Clean Air Act. Created in 2012, AAPCA represents 47 state and local air pollution control agencies, and senior officials from 22 state environmental agencies currently sit on the AAPCA Board of Directors. AAPCA is housed in Lexington, Kentucky as an affiliate of [The Council of State Governments](#). You can find more information about AAPCA at: [www.cleanairact.org](http://www.cleanairact.org).

<sup>2</sup> See: AAPCA, *State Air Trends & Successes: The StATS Report*, May 2020.

<sup>3</sup> In October 2019, AAPCA [transmitted a letter](#) to U.S. EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards regarding principles and priorities for training program development.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office, *AIR POLLUTION: Opportunities to Better Sustain and Modernize the National Air Quality Monitoring System*, November 12, 2020 (publicly released 12/7/2020).

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://cleanairact.org/2020-best-practices/>.

<sup>6</sup> See AAPCA's fact sheet, *Preparing for Personal Air Sensors: Definition, Opportunities, and Data Limitations* (updated July 2020).



engagement, which are core to environmental progress. AAPCA and its members look forward to working with you and the Agency to continue to improve air quality in this country. Please reach out to AAPCA by contacting [jsloan@csg.org](mailto:jsloan@csg.org) or (859) 244-8043.

Sincerely,

Jason Sloan, Executive Director  
AAPCA