



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 15 2013

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. William G. Ross Jr.  
Chairman  
National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Ross:

On behalf of everyone at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I wish to thank you and your colleagues on the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology for your second advisory letter on sustainability.

Please be assured that we at the EPA are now incorporating principles of sustainability more fully into our ongoing regulatory and nonregulatory work. We very much appreciate your helpful recommendations on setting direction and creating alignment on the EPA's path to sustainability, engaging stakeholders in the EPA's commitment to sustainability and demonstrating the EPA's leadership in sustainability.

As you are aware from recent conversations, we are already implementing some of your recommendations. For example, I recently established a committee of senior career deputies to work with me in guiding our sustainability efforts. That group has been working to embed sustainability principles into our strategic-planning process and documents. We have also begun discussions about bolstering our work on sustainability metrics. Finally, with additional encouragement from the release of the National Academy of Sciences' new report, *Sustainability for the Nation: Resource Connections and Government Linkages*, we are evaluating the EPA's leadership role in sustainability in the context of the federal government at large, and we appreciate your confidence.

We also are grateful for your recommendations on potential breakthrough objectives. The idea of our setting these, as both you and the National Academy of Sciences recommended, remains a topic for thoughtful discussion. In establishing such objectives, we will, of course, carefully consider the scientific bases for evaluating achievement of the objectives as well as the resource implications in pursuing them.

Further, we are pleased to begin working with a subcommittee of your members to explore the EPA's role within the social pillar of sustainability. This effort follows up on your recommendation that the EPA should link sustainability, community engagement and environmental-justice approaches

agencywide. As we move forward on sustainability, we might ask you and your advisory-council colleagues for additional advice.

In the meantime, I thank you once more for the hard work you devoted to your thoughtful and informative advisory letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bob Perciasepe', written in a cursive style.

Bob Perciasepe

cc: Cynthia Jones-Jackson