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Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to be here today to testify on the President's 1999 budget for the Environmental Protection Agency. The Agency's budget request for this year is \$7.771 billion and support for 18,375 FTE. The 1999 budget request is a six percent increase over the enacted level for Fiscal Year 1998. This budget clearly demonstrates the Administration's abiding commitment to protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the land on which we live.

A commitment to environmental protection and economic progress is the foundation for the President's 1999 budget request. As the President has said, this time of prosperity is not a time to rest, but a time to build a better future for our children. The budget increase the Administration requests for EPA is the embodiment of that spirit.

Like previous budgets submitted by the President, this one is based on the premise that protecting the environment and protecting public health are good for the economy. That proposition has been borne out over the past quarter century, and particularly during the recent years of unprecedented economic growth. We can all agree that the nation's economic health is closely linked with the health of the environment.

We can grow the economy while moving forward with the strong, effective environmental and public health measures that the American people want and deserve. Just this year, we've seen that it is possible to eliminate the deficit while strengthening our commitment to a safer, cleaner, and healthier environment.

This budget meets that commitment by expanding the opportunities for Americans to know about pollution in their communities. It meets that commitment by taking measures to improve protections for our children. It meets that commitment by speeding up toxic waste cleanup, redeveloping "brownfields" sites, and toughening enforcement against criminal polluters. And it meets that commitment by funding a plan to help States protect their most endangered watersheds.

I'd like to address some of the specific ways this budget addresses the critical, emerging environmental challenges of the 21st Century.

This budget reflects the President's determination that through the Research Fund for America the U.S. will lead the world in meeting the challenge of global warming by reducing greenhouse gases – and doing so in a way that grows the economy. The *Climate Change Technology Initiative (CCTI)*, a multi-Agency initiative including EPA, DOE, USDA, DOC, and HUD will enable us to meet that challenge. EPA's share of the initiative, funded in the 1999 budget at \$205 million, will help America meet its global responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through market forces, new technology, and energy efficiency. EPA will work with industry to find sensible, cost-effective ways to meet the global warming challenge, all the while continuing on a path of economic growth.

Another major environmental challenge facing America is the continued environmental and public health threats related to the pollution of our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Clean water keeps both our communities and ecosystems healthy and thriving. EPA's 1999 budget includes \$145, through the Environmental Resources Fund for America for the President's Clean Water Initiative. This initiative, which involves a number of agencies and departments government-wide, is designed to address today's greatest threats to our nation's waters – including polluted runoff from urban and agricultural areas, industrial toxics, and the loss of wetlands. The States will play a key role in this initiative, as most of this new funding will go directly to the States so that we can protect our critical watersheds in the most effective way we know: community by community.

To further strengthen our partnership with communities, and to leverage federal tax dollars in the most effective way, the Administration supports continued capitalization of the State Revolving Funds. These funds make available low-interest loans to help communities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and The Clean Water Act. The Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds will help ensure that Americans have a safe, clean drinking water supply -- our first line of defense in protecting public health. The Clean Water State Revolving Funds will help communities keep their waterways safe and clean and reduce beach closures. The President's proposed capitalization levels for these two funds will make progress toward the Administration goal of providing sufficient capital for the funds to offer \$2.5 billion per year in financial assistance to communities over the long run.

Protecting the health of our children is one of this Administration's highest priorities, and protecting our environment is critical to our children's health. This budget adds \$8 million to EPA's budget for implementing the Agency's children's health agenda. This money will support the activities of EPA's Office of Children's Health to make sure environmental protection efforts address the unique vulnerability of children to environmental health threats. Major activities include working with the Department of

Health and Human Services to establish six Children's Environmental Research Centers, ensuring that EPA's public health regulations recognize children's health, and providing information to parents to better protect their children from environmental hazards.

To ensure that no child should have to grow up near a toxic waste dump, we will continue our accelerated cleanup of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites under Superfund. This budget request includes \$2.1 billion for Superfund. This funding, along with continuing administrative reforms, will ensure that we meet the Administration's commitment to clean up 900 of the nation's worst toxic waste sites by the end of the year 2001.

EPA will also continue to expand and strengthen our Brownfields partnership with states, cities, and communities. This year's budget request for Brownfields is \$91 million. This program has a proven record of revitalizing communities by helping them return abandoned industrial sites to productive use.

This Administration is committed to ensuring that our nation's air quality standards are strong enough to protect the public health. This budget request supports an investment of \$75 million to implement the new, stronger clean air standards. This investment level honors the President's commitment to States to fund the costs of deploying a new fine particulate monitoring network and to provide them the tools necessary to carry out their monitoring efforts. This effort is crucial to ensuring cleaner, safer air for all Americans.

This budget provides an increase of \$19 million to broaden citizens' right to know about pollutants in their communities. Examples of the action we will take include enhancing and improving the public's ability to gain access to information through the internet and through EPA's new Center for Environmental Information and Statistics.

We all agree that sound science is the key to sound environmental policies. This budget includes \$527 million for EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), primarily funded through the Environmental Resources Funds for America, to ensure that we have a scientific basis to develop cost-effective environmental policies and to enable new and better approaches to environmental protection.

Finally, it is important to note that this is the first budget that reflects EPA's new approach of goal-based budgeting - linking resources to environmental results. With this new approach, we are committed to carrying out the reforms envisioned by the Government Performance and Results Act. We are confident that this new approach will help us allocate our resources and measure our successes.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to discussing the Administration's 1999 budget with you and the Committee. I know that you share the Administration's commitment to protect the environment while continuing on the Nation's path of unprecedented economic growth. We at the Agency are working to strengthen our relationships with the public, the regulated community, and its governmental partners to provide a more effective and efficient system of environmental protection. Together we can lay the groundwork for a new era of environmental protection, and leave our children and grandchildren with a cleaner, safer environment.