

**Testimony of Steven Lawitts**  
**Chief Financial Officer, New York City Department of Environmental Protection**  
**before the**  
**New York City Council Committee on Environmental Protection**  
**concerning the**  
**FY 2015 Preliminary Budget**

**Friday, March 14, 2014 1:00 pm**

Good afternoon Chairman Richards and Members. I am Steven Lawitts, Chief Financial Officer of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). I am joined today by Matt Mahoney, Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs, Joseph Murin, DEP's Assistant Commissioner for Budget, and other senior managers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget.

**Strategy Update**

Before I get to our capital and expense budgets, I'd like to quickly share some recent accomplishments. I will then return to some of them when I discuss the budgets to give you a better sense of the scope of our work and its costs.

In 2013 we:

- Activated Stage 2 of City Water Tunnel No. 3 to provide critical redundancy to our water supply and facilitate the vital inspection and repair of City Tunnel No. 1;
- Increased online permitting opportunities for business, engineers, and contractors and enrolled 53,000 customers in paperless billing, and we currently have over 133,000 subscribers for our Service Line Protection Program;
- Implemented an agency-wide forum on Environmental Health and Safety orientation to encourage open, frequent discussion of safety and compliance concerns;
- Broke ground on the Rondout-West Branch Bypass Tunnel for the Water for the Future project, a \$1.7 billion program to repair the aging Delaware Aqueduct, and broke ground on a separate but related \$21.2 million project to connect the Catskill and Delaware aqueducts;
- Activated the 1.3 mile Gowanus Canal Flushing Tunnel, which is now bringing oxygen-rich water from New York Harbor, and upgraded the Gowanus Canal Pumping Station;
- Expanded the Staten Island Bluebelt into mid-Island and built Bluebelt-type features into projects at Springfield Lake in Queens and at the New York Botanical Garden in The Bronx.

**Update on the Preliminary Mayor's Management Report**

A number of performance metrics in the Mayor's Management Report (MMR) are closely related to the core goals and functions to which our capital and expense budgets are directed, as well as being of interest to our customers and your constituents. After reviewing those metrics and some

other milestones of the past year, I will review highlights of the expense and capital sections of the FY15 Preliminary Budget, and finally I will review the capital investments in each borough.

## **Performance Metrics**

### **Water and Sewer**

In the last decade, DEP has implemented technologies and procedures to shift from reactive to proactive sewer maintenance. For example, we restructured with a focus on borough-based management and accountability and we created the Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) section to employ the most up-to-date strategies in areas that would benefit most from proactive interventions like increased cleaning. To support this section and improve service, DEP enhanced our use of geographic information systems and computers in the field; developed procedures and guidelines for field personnel; expanded tracking data on customer service requests related to sewer back-ups; deployed “smart” manhole covers to detect high elevations of wastewater in the sewers, and built the first-ever field training facility with live sewers and water mains.

Our effort to improve sewer service also benefited from the work of our Sewer Operations and Analysis Program, which analyzes trends in data and investigates areas that have a high frequency and density of confirmed issues. Analysts create maps of reported sewer backups to better identify segments and neighborhoods that have recurring problems. Once DEP identifies the likely factors behind confirmed backups or other service issues, we develop a remediation plan that can include degreasing, regular cleaning, and repair or replacement of the infrastructure. Although we can’t prevent sewers from surcharging during storms that exceed the design capacity of the sewer, we can deploy resources more efficiently to make sure that the existing system consistently meets the criteria for which it was designed.

### **State of the Sewers 2013**

In November 2012, DEP released for the first time a report called “State of the Sewers” in which we documented some of the important changes in how we maintain and improve the system for collecting and conveying stormwater and sanitary waste. The 2013 update on that report documents the success of our efforts to improve our performance. Because fat, oil, and grease buildup was the cause of 62% of confirmed sewer backups in FY13, DEP began a year-long collaboration with the New York City Housing Authority at the Baruch Houses in Manhattan to educate residents on proper disposal of used cooking grease. DEP also started a community-wide awareness campaign called Cease the Grease in the Briarwood neighborhood of Queens.

Here are some of our performance statistics:

- Sewer backup resolution time: 24% decrease from FY09 to FY13
- Catch basin resolution time: 63% decrease from FY09 to FY13
- Number of catch basins with open work orders: 89% decrease from July 2010 to today
- Confirmed sewer backups: 38% decrease from FY09 to FY13
- Sewer segments with recurring backups decreased by 39% from FY09 to FY13

- Sewer segments with recurring backups in dry weather decreased by 45% from FY 09 to FY13
- Total sewer cleaning increased 126% from FY09 to FY13

### **Air/Noise**

DEP continued to improve its performance in responding to complaints related to violations of the air and noise pollution codes largely due to operational efficiencies resulting from last year's implementation of the H2OStat program, which also looked at enforcement statistics. We responded to 99 percent of these complaints within the seven-day target, a 10- and 13-percentage point improvement, respectively, over last year despite increases in both complaint categories. In addition, the average time to close air complaints decreased by 28 percent, from 5.3 to 3.8 days, and by 38 percent for noise complaints, from 8.5 to 5.3 days.

### **Customer Services**

To address peaks in call volume, the Bureau of Customer Services initiated a virtual call center. Staff has been identified in borough offices and other non-call center units to support the call center during peak periods. This, along with the hiring of staff to address attrition in the prior period, led to a 25-percentage point increase in calls answered within 30 seconds. In addition, the average call-wait time dropped by over 68 percent to 22.8 seconds.

### **Key Programs and Projects**

#### **Green Infrastructure Program**

DEP continues to implement its Green Infrastructure program (GI), which incorporates different techniques to handle combined sewer overflows (CSOs) without building massive tanks and tunnels (gray infrastructure) on which the City had previously relied. In March 2012 DEP and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation reached an agreement, which provides flexibility on a consent order regarding CSO remediation to allow GI investments to be counted towards that effort.

In Fiscal 2014 - 2017, \$488 million is planned for various GI projects on public property. Some examples of recent projects include right-of-way bioswales, porous pavement and rooftop detention such as green and blue roofs. DEP hired consultants to create Green Infrastructure implementation plans for the key watershed areas of Newtown Creek, Gowanus, and Flushing. It is anticipated that these plans, which are meant to quantify how the CSO reduction benchmarks of the consent order will be met, will be completed and available for review.

The GI program reflects the City's goal to improve water quality outlined in PlaNYC 2030 by reducing CSOs into waterways by 40 percent by 2030, and many of the pilot programs already under way in Jamaica Bay are in accordance with Local Law 71 of 2005 (as amended in 2006). Additionally, Local Law 5 of 2008 required the Administration to develop and implement a sustainable stormwater management plan with the goal of reducing the approximately 27 billion gallons of untreated sewage and storm water that is discharged into the City's waters in a typical year.

### **Green Infrastructure Grant Program**

On March 4, DEP announced this year's fourth annual round of its Green Infrastructure Grant Program, encouraging community groups, non-profits, and property owners to apply for \$6 million in new funding that is available for green projects. These projects, to be built on private property, will augment the public-space projects being built by the City, both of which will soften the impervious urban landscape and help absorb stormwater that would otherwise drain into the combined sewer system and contribute to combined sewer overflows into local waterways.

Notable projects that were funded during the first three years of the Grant Program and have completed construction include a 43,400 square foot green roof at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, one of the nation's first blue/green roof combinations at The Osborne Association in the Bronx, a green roof at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House in Manhattan, permeable pavers and rain gardens at Queens College, a New York Restoration Project community garden in Brooklyn's Gowanus neighborhood, and a green roof at Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn.

### **Water for the Future**

Most Members are aware of a leaking portion of the Delaware Aqueduct, also known as Rondout-West Branch Tunnel (RWBT). Designated as our Water for the Future program (WFF), a new three-mile tunnel will be built to bypass the leaking portion in Orange County. Other repairs to the portion that runs under Ulster County will be done from within the existing aqueduct. During construction, when the newly constructed bypass tunnel is being connected to the existing aqueduct, the Delaware Aqueduct will need to be shut down and become unable to deliver water to the City. Currently the aqueduct carries approximately half of NYC's drinking water to more than eight million people daily—approximately 500 million gallons per day (MGD). It is capable of delivering 900 million gallons of water a day.

DEP received approvals from local towns, and two shafts, one at each end of the planned three-mile bypass tunnel, are currently being drilled and blasted. Once the shafts are completed the tunnel-boring machine can be lowered to begin the tunnel work. The February Capital Commitment Plan includes \$560 million planned in Fiscal 2014 – 2017 for the construction of a bypass tunnel to repair the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel.

Related projects, which we call the WFF Demand Management program, will help cope with the aqueduct being offline at a later stage of the project. The goal of the program is a 5% reduction in current demand by 2021. These reductions will come through two major programs: the Toilet Replacement Program (TRP) and the Municipal Water Efficiency Program (MWEP). The TRP will target residential properties throughout the City to replace as many as 800,000 toilets. We expect the TRP to reduce NYC demand by approximately 3% or 30 MGD.

MWEP is projected to reduce consumption by an additional 1.5% to 2% through partnerships with the NYC Housing Authority, Department of Education, Parks Department, Fire Department and City Universities. To date, DEP has made progress on retrofitting over 100 spray showers in City parks; the installation of low-flow fixtures in 26 schools will also be complete by the end of fiscal year 2014.

The first phase of the TRP has been initiated with a solicitation request for contractors to facilitate the voucher and toilet replacements. Registration for the contractors for the toilet replacement program is expected by the end of April. DEP did not receive any proposals for porcelain crushing (to recycle toilets that will have been replaced) and is looking at alternatives or re-bidding the contract. DEP will be re-issuing the solicitation in April. DEP will continue its operational efficiency programs such as leak detection, meter replacements, and pressure management.

Separately, DEP is also undertaking a survey of our upstate wholesale customers' conservation efforts. In the next year, we hope to introduce an upstate conservation program that will assist our upstate wholesale customers in developing and implementing conservation plans and incentivize their reduction in water use. Currently, our upstate customers account for approximately 10% of the System's water use and 2% of System revenues.

### **Catskill-Delaware Ultra-Violet Disinfection Facility**

To provide ultraviolet disinfection (UV) for the drinking water from the Catskill and Delaware watersheds, in 2013 DEP completed the \$1.6 billion Catskill-Delaware Facility, the largest facility of its kind in the world. That facility was constructed pursuant to a federal mandate that requires treatment of surface water supplies with two forms of disinfection. Prior to the UV Plant's completion and operation, the addition of chlorine provided the only form of disinfection for our drinking water.

### **Croton Filtration Plant**

In December 2013 we began start-up and testing of the Croton plant, a facility to treat the drinking water provided by the Croton system, the oldest of the three drinking water systems serving New York City. Testing at the Croton plant will continue during 2014 as we wrap up construction. The Croton plant will allow the Croton supply to meet all drinking water quality goals even during times of the year when the system would have been taken off-line because of seasonal color variations. A consistent and reliable Croton supply is a key part of our planning to meet the City's drinking water needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the plant's treatment capacity will provide up to 290 MGD. This capacity will be a critical component of our Water for the Future

program and will help meet New York City's daily drinking water demand in the absence of the Delaware Aqueduct. In connection with the construction of the Croton plant, DEP is also undertaking significant construction at the 108-year-old Jerome Park Reservoir, the only drinking water reservoir actually inside the City.

### **City Water Tunnel No. 3**

City Water Tunnel No. 3 is one of the largest and longest-running public works projects in the City's history. When complete it will improve the reliability of our water supply and allow for the inspection of City Water Tunnel No. 1 for the first time since it came on line in 1917. City Water Tunnel No. 3 has been built in stages. The first stage – running from Yonkers to midtown Manhattan and then Astoria, Queens – was completed in 1998.

A tunnel boring machine began mining the second portion of the Manhattan leg of the tunnel in 2003. By 2006, it had excavated a 12-foot diameter tunnel roughly 500 feet below street level down the west side of the island from Central Park to Canal Street, and then on to the east side, in Lower Manhattan. It also dug a branch that runs east at 30th Street and loops north to the Manhattan side of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge. By 2010, the tunnel had been lined with nearly three million cubic feet of concrete. In addition, ten shafts, spaced roughly 20 blocks apart, were constructed in order to bring the water up from the tunnel to the large trunk water mains where it enters the local distribution system. As part of the project, more than 6 miles of trunk water mains and more than 11 miles of smaller distribution mains have been installed under the streets of Manhattan to deliver the water to residences and businesses in the service area. The activation of this phase of the tunnel was announced last October.

### **Newtown Creek**

In 2011, as the result of a federally mandated \$5 billion upgrade project, DEP began providing full secondary treatment at our largest sewage treatment plant, the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment plant in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, in Council Member Levin's district. "Full secondary" is the federal standard for wastewater treatment. Until then, Newtown Creek was the only one of our fourteen plants that was not able to consistently meet that standard. This \$5 billion project, accomplished while the plant was in service, allows New York City to meet the requirements of our regulators and reduce pollutant loadings into our waterways.

### **Service Line Protection Program**

In January 2013 we announced the availability of an optional Service Line Protection Program. The water and sewer service lines that connect homes to the City-owned water and sewer mains are the responsibility of the homeowner. Repairs to broken service lines can cost between \$3,000 and \$15,000 and be financially devastating to a homeowner. Under the Service Line Protection Program, American Water Resources (AWR) will repair an enrolled customer's leaking water service line or a broken or clogged sewer service line for a small monthly fee, currently \$4.49 per month for the water service line and \$7.99 for the sewer service line. Homeowners who choose to enroll in the Program sign a contract with AWR and have the convenience of paying the enrollment fees through their water bills. In a little over a year, over

133,000 customers have enrolled in the Plan, with 97% of subscribers having enrolled in both the water and sewer plans. Based on historical repair rates, these 133,000 enrolled customers are likely to generate over 5,000 repair calls per year. Coverage under the Protection Program will save these enrolled customers collectively more than \$6 million per year.

### **Automated Meter Reading**

As of March 6, 2014, Automated Meter Reading (AMR) transmitters have been installed on over 816,000 meters, representing 96% of meters citywide (based on a citywide total of approximately 850,000 meters). Staten Island is the most built-out borough, with a 98% coverage rate. With an increasing percentage of our accounts moving onto automated meter reading, we are seeing a corresponding decrease in the percentage of monthly bills that are estimated. In January 2009, 17.4% of bills were estimated while, in February 2014, only 3.7% of bills were estimated (a 79% reduction). Additionally, as a part of this effort, DEP has replaced over 431,000 water meters citywide.

### **Land Acquisition**

DEP is in the seventh year of the 10-year Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) we secured in 2007. Land acquisition continues to be an important part of our source water protection program, and DEP remains on track to meet the land solicitation goals established in the FAD. We continue to prioritize solicitation, taking into account the high levels of protection we've attained in many parts of the watershed.

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss these recent achievements; I'll turn now to a discussion of the expense and capital budget highlights.

### **The Preliminary FY 2015 Expense Budget**

The projected expense budget for the current fiscal year, FY14, is \$1.5 billion, which includes approximately \$367 million in Community Development Block Grant funds for the Build it Back program, for which DEP serves as the contracting entity for the City. For FY15 we expect DEP's expense budget to be \$1.104 billion, which is largely unchanged from the prior estimates. The only change that has occurred is the funding of \$1.2 million in overtime for the air, noise and asbestos enforcement program areas.

The expense budget breaks down into the following large categories:

The Preliminary FY 2015 budget projects \$454.6 million, 41% of the total, in personal services to pay the salaries for our nearly 6,000 funded positions.

- Taxes on upstate watershed lands make up the next-largest category, accounting for \$157 million or nearly 14% of the expense budget. As the Chairman and Committee members know well, the ownership of watershed lands represents a critical investment in maintaining the high quality of NYC's drinking water by protecting it at the source and ensuring that it does not require more expensive treatment, such as filtration. I am pleased to report that we have successfully negotiated agreements with upstate jurisdictions to make our tax obligations more stable and predictable and, in some cases, to reduce them.

- Heat, light and power – DEP’s energy costs – account for \$111 million or 10% of the FY15 expense budget. DEP is the third-largest municipal consumer of electric power in New York City after the Department of Education and the Health and Hospitals Corporation, and our consumption will grow as we bring online new treatment facilities for both drinking water and wastewater. To control energy costs and meet PlaNYC’s goals for greenhouse gas reduction, DEP is investing in projects to reduce energy needs. One of these is a cogeneration plant at North River that I mention below.
- Sludge management of 1,200 tons per day is projected to cost about \$40.1million in FY15, or about 4% of our projected FY15 expenses.

### **Preliminary FY2014-FY2017 Four-Year Capital Plan**

DEP’s FY15 Preliminary Capital Budget is \$7.5 billion for FY14-17, as presented by Mayor de Blasio on February 12, 2014. Highlights of the preliminary Four-Year Plan are as follows:

#### **Wastewater Treatment**

The Preliminary Four-Year Plan projects a \$2.8 billion investment in wastewater treatment projects, \$2.1 billion of which is for the reconstruction or replacement of components of the wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations. The remaining \$680 million investment will be used to mitigate combined sewer overflows, with \$488 million for green infrastructure such as green roofs and bioswales, and the remainder for grey infrastructure, such as tanks and tunnels to store wastewater. In addition, \$181 million is budgeted for the construction of a new cogeneration plant at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant. The new cogeneration plant will use renewable digester gas produced by the wastewater treatment process to both power equipment and heat the facility. It will help us reduce our energy use and help the City meet the ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in PlaNYC.

#### **Reservoirs, Dams, Treatment Facilities and Water Mains**

Over the next three years, the Administration is proposing to invest an additional \$1.9 billion in protecting the quality of our reservoirs and the integrity of our dams, providing for treatment where necessary, and maintaining and repairing the water main system conveying potable water to all New Yorkers. We have budgeted \$262 million for the reconstruction of dams in our three watersheds and \$40 million for pressurization of a two-and-one-half mile segment of the Catskill Aqueduct, which will increase the volume of water available to the city and re-establish DEP’s ability to bypass the Kensico Reservoir when necessary to access the highest quality water. For the continuation of our current Filtration Avoidance Determination programs, the preliminary FY14-17 Capital Plan includes \$209 million, covering all our capital needs for the current FAD, including \$57 million for land acquisition.

#### **The Rondout-West Branch Tunnel and Water for the Future**

Although this project extends even beyond the Ten-Year Plan, in the FY14-17 period the Preliminary Budget provides \$560 million for the bypass itself and over \$100 million for other projects related to providing supplemental sources of water during the Delaware Aqueduct

shutdown. Increasing the capacity of the Catskill Aqueduct – a project distinct from pressurization – accounts for an additional \$146 million.

### **City Water Tunnel No. 3**

To modify the chambers built during Stage I at the Hillview Reservoir, the Preliminary FY14-17 Capital Plan allots \$51 million. Stage II of City Water Tunnel No. 3 includes a section running through lower Manhattan as well as a section running from Astoria, Queens to Red Hook, Brooklyn. Although the Manhattan leg and the Manhattan shafts for City Water Tunnel No. 3 have been substantially completed, we are budgeting \$48 million in FY 14-17 for additional work related to the activation of the Manhattan leg of Tunnel 3. The Department of Design and Construction completed those water mains critical to activating the Manhattan leg and, as I mentioned, on October 16 of last year, we marked the activation of that section of Tunnel 3, enabling us to provide much-needed redundancy to City Water Tunnel No. 1.

### **Sewers**

The Preliminary FY14-17 Capital Plan projects \$1.4 billion of spending on sewers including:

- \$317 million for replacement of sewers (storm, sanitary or combined);
- \$890 million for new sewers (of all types) of which;
  - Storm sewers as a category by itself (either new or reconstructed) accounts for \$612 million of projected spending, of which \$152 million is for high-level storm sewers, including Third Avenue in Brooklyn; and
  - \$257 million of the total is for both the conventional sewers and the lands necessary to create Bluebelt systems, which are also being extended beyond Staten Island to Springfield Lake in Queens, Van Cortlandt Park and the Bronx Botanical Garden, and other locations.

### **The FY14-17 Capital Plan Highlights by Borough**

In Queens, the preliminary Four Year Plan shows a total of \$1.3 billion allocated for projects of all types. Sewers account for \$340 million. Work on two shaft sites connected with Stage II of City Water Tunnel No. 3 is budgeted for \$6 million. We project \$84 million to evaluate, assess and restore groundwater wells in Southeast Queens for the purpose of providing additional water during the Rondout bypass construction, and during any droughts or other instances where the City's surface water supplies are not adequate.

In Staten Island, the Preliminary Four-Year Plan projects a total of \$622 million, of which \$427 million is for sewers. The Snug Harbor sewer project is budgeted for \$24 million. Repairs to the Oakwood Beach plant and to the Hannah Street pumping station are projected to cost \$68 million.

I note that the Preliminary Four-Year Plan does not include the cost of repairing damage to the Staten Island siphon project caused by Sandy. The costs of the damage to that project, which will replace the two existing, underwater water siphons that supply drinking water to Staten

Island, are under discussion. Some of the costs may be covered by the contractor's insurer. We are hopeful that the federal government will cover any uninsured costs.

In the Bronx, the Preliminary Budget projects \$671 million of capital spending from FY14-17. Approximately \$160 million is budgeted for the Hunts Point treatment plant, including \$50 million for new centrifuges and \$96 million for new digesters. Restoration of the Mosholu driving range, clubhouse and related work is budgeted for \$49 million in FY 2014. To reduce CSOs into Pugsley Creek and Long Island Sound DEP has budgeted \$72 million in FY 2016 for construction of a parallel sewer that will help divert flow away from the Creek.

In Manhattan, the Preliminary Budget shows \$777 million over the four years between FY14 and FY17. The largest single project is the \$181 million cogeneration project at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant. The cogeneration project will replace existing equipment for recycling digester gas with a more efficient system that will allow more of the plant's energy needs to be generated by the plant itself, thereby reducing energy costs and air emissions. Another \$246 million is for several projects at the Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant: reconstruction of final tanks; reconstruction of the boiler complex; and installation of new dewatering centrifuges. \$146 million will fund the construction of water mains connecting two of the City Water Tunnel No. 3 shafts with the local water distribution system.

In Brooklyn, the Preliminary Budget includes \$820 million of planned commitments. The 26<sup>th</sup> Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant and associated sewer work to reduce CSOs into Fresh Creek account for \$317 million. Coney Island sewer improvements are funded at \$14 million in FY 14. An additional \$94 million is projected in FY15-17 for Coney Island sewers.

### **Unfunded Mandates**

I also want to take this opportunity to remind the Committee that DEP remains concerned about unfunded state and federal mandates that threaten our ability to provide real value and services for every dollar we receive from our ratepayers. As you know, we have expressed doubt about the timing or need for certain federally mandated projects that create enormous pressure on the rates. For example, we do not believe that building a concrete cover over Hillview Reservoir in Yonkers at a cost in excess of a billion dollars is necessary to protect our drinking water, but a blanket EPA rule that we do not agree applies to our system says otherwise. We are very involved in sponsoring scientific research and in promoting sensible solutions, and we are certainly committed above all to protecting public health.

### **Resiliency**

In October 2013, on the first anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, DEP released the "NYC Wastewater Resiliency Plan," the nation's most detailed and comprehensive assessment of the risks that climate change poses to a wastewater collection and treatment system. The groundbreaking study, initiated in 2011 and expanded after Hurricane Sandy, was based on an asset-by-asset analysis of the risks from storm surge under new flood maps at all 14 treatment plants and 58 pumping stations, representing more than \$1 billion in infrastructure. If no action

is taken, we project that damage to the equipment from repeated coastal flooding at projected rising sea levels could exceed \$2 billion over the next 50 years. We estimate that if we invest \$315 million now to protect valuable equipment and minimize disruptions to critical services during future storms, we will help protect this infrastructure from that \$2 billion plus in repeated flooding losses. DEP will coordinate this work with the broader coastal protection initiatives, such as engineered barriers and wetlands, described in the 2013 report, “A Stronger, More Resilient New York,” and continue to implement the drinking water and drainage strategies identified in the report to mitigate the impacts of future extreme events and climate change.

On behalf of the almost 6,000 employees of DEP who make a difference each and every day for our environment, I want to express our commitment to work with you, Chairman Richards and the members of this committee, in the coming years of this new administration.

That completes my prepared statement. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. I look forward to answering any questions that you have.