

**STATEMENT OF JIM JONES**  
**NOMINEE FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE**  
**OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**BEFORE THE**  
**SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**JULY 23, 2013**

Good morning Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Vitter and other Members of the Committee.

I am greatly honored to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee for Assistant Administrator of the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention in EPA.

For 26 years, I have served as a career employee of EPA. The majority of this time has been spent in furthering chemical safety. Over 17 years ago, I was engaged in the development of the Food Quality Protection Act. This law, which passed with bipartisan support, required EPA to evaluate all food use pesticides against a risk based standard within 10 years. Although few thought the Agency would be able to meet such an ambitious schedule, we did just that. Although some pesticides were completely eliminated from use in the US, for many others, EPA, working with stakeholders, was able to find common sense, cost-effective ways to reduce exposure and meet the rigorous safety standard. I am proud to have played a role along with many other dedicated and talented EPA staff, in ensuring food safety in the United States. Some of the most important lessons I learned in this experience were the importance of sound science as the underpinning of our decisions and the power of transparency in our processes.

More recently, my efforts in furthering chemical safety have focused on the implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act. At the beginning of the Obama Administration I was an active participant in the development of the Administration's principles for TSCA reform. It has been very encouraging to see similar principles articulated by industry and public interest stakeholders. I look forward to working with this Committee on modernizing TSCA to ensure the safety of chemicals in consumer and commercial products.

As important as TSCA reform is to a robust chemical safety program in the US, I believe it is important that EPA use the existing tools it has to ensure chemical safety. We are assessing the risks for those chemicals which we know present hazards and to which we know people are exposed. We have developed a workplan for these chemicals and have published the first five draft risk assessments. More risk assessments are coming. We are also increasing the availability and accessibility of information so that manufacturers, buyers and the public can make informed choices about chemicals and products. Last year we published the first ever Safer Chemicals Ingredient List which now has over 600 chemicals. We are adding to this list. In the coming weeks, we will launch a website that will allow industry and the public easier access to health, safety and other data on TSCA chemicals.

I also believe that preventing pollution in the first place is a preferable approach to chemical safety. Over the years, I have promoted and supported programs that work with industry and the public to make environmentally preferable choices. These programs have had pay-offs that far exceed the minimal resources used to initiate them.

I am proud to have had a role in furthering the chemical safety of this nation. Ensuring chemical safety, maintaining public confidence that EPA is protecting the American people and our environment, and promoting our global leadership in chemicals management remain top priorities for me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee, especially in the area of TSCA reform.

Thank you. I welcome your questions.