

STATEMENT OF JANE TOSHIKO NISHIDA  
NOMINEE FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 11, 2015

Good morning Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, and other members of the Committee.

Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer, I'd like to thank your Committee staff for taking the time to meet with me and my fellow EPA nominees.

I am humbled to appear before you as President Obama's nominee to be the Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs for the Environmental Protection Agency. For the past 30 years, I have worked in the field of environment, at the state and federal level, and with international and nongovernmental organizations. It has been my privilege to spend the last four years working at the Environmental Protection Agency, where every day I have strived to further our Agency's role of protecting human health and the environment, and if confirmed, I will continue to do just that.

Sitting here before you in these chambers, I can't help but think of my parents, and how proud they would be to join me here today. They are no longer with us, but I know that if they were, they would be beaming with pride. My father served in the US foreign service for over 30 years, so from a very young age, the importance of public service was ever present in my life. I saw firsthand the power the United States has to improve people's lives, both at home, and abroad. As my father's country assignments changed, so too did my vantage point.

I got my first start in the field of government working as Committee Counsel in the Maryland General Assembly, where I worked with Senator Cardin, a member of this committee. The lessons I learned in the Maryland General Assembly were invaluable – while there, I learned the

importance of the legislative process and the important roles of the legislative and executive branches of government.

These lessons were further instilled in me at my next position, in the Maryland Executive Branch, where I served under three different governors. As the Governor's legislative liaison I worked on legislative issues in agriculture, environment, health, human resources, planning, and natural resources. This enabled me to see clearly the connections between human health and the environment, between agriculture and natural resources, and how these are inextricably linked.

In 1995, I was appointed Secretary of the Maryland Department of Environment. It was a privilege to serve in this position for seven years, ensuring the quality of Maryland's air and water, managing the safe disposal of hazardous and solid waste, and restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay. The position showed me how vital it is for environmental managers to involve stakeholders – local governments, business, fisherman, farmers, and NGOs – in the decision-making process, to listen and to learn from them. It also personalized things for me – to see firsthand how environmental protection affects citizens' drinking water, the infrastructure of cities, and the vitality and vulnerability of the places where our families live, work, and play.

When I left Maryland, I took a position as Senior Environmental Institutions Specialist at the World Bank, sharing the lessons I had worked on for 20 years at the state level with developing countries struggling with air, water, and other environmental problems. It was an eye-opening experience, and one that reaffirmed the value and importance of how sharing lessons learned in the US can improve the global environment.

In 2011, I began work at the Environmental Protection Agency, serving first as the director of our Regional and Bilateral Affairs Office within our International and Tribal Affairs Office, and then in 2013, I became the Office of International and Tribal Affairs' Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator. The Office of International and Tribal Affairs manages EPA's work with all sovereign nations, both within and outside the United States. Taking on this second role

enabled me to work on the full breadth of this office's issues, including managing the American Indian Environmental Office which is responsible for our important work with tribal nations.

I am honored to have been nominated to the position of Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs. Should I be confirmed, I commit to working steadfastly to uphold the basic mission of this Agency, and to continue the legacy that I learned from a young age from my father – a tireless dedication to public service.

Thank you, again, Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to meet with you today. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.