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Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Peter C. Wright as Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

I am writing in my personal capacity in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Mr. Peter C. Wright as Assistant Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the Office of Land and Emergency Management ("OLEM"). As an environmental lawyer for more than thirty years whose practice has emphasized the legal issues under the jurisdiction of OLEM and its predecessor office, I fully understand the importance of this office to the protection of the environment and the public health and welfare of the United States. I am also fully aware of the critical role that the Assistant Administrator plays in setting environmental policy, including policies concerning the cleanup of contaminated sites under the federal Superfund Program.

It is difficult to imagine a candidate more qualified for this position than Mr. Wright. He would bring to the Assistant Administrator role a wealth of substantive knowledge and experience acquired over several decades as one of the most widely respected practitioners in this highly complex area of law. He would also bring a strong sense of practicality and fairness acquired in the trenches of environmental law, as well as his commitment to expediting accomplishment of OLEM's important objectives. Based on my personal knowledge of Mr. Wright and my experience in working with him, I have complete confidence that he has the character, knowledge, and abilities necessary to lead OLEM with distinction.

For these reasons, I support Mr. Wright's nomination highly and without reservation. I believe that, if confirmed, he will capably serve OLEM, EPA, and the public as Assistant Administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence S. Kirsch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laurence S. Kirsch
Partner and Chair, Energy and Environmental Practice