

California Environmental Justice Coalition | Citizen Air Monitoring Network |  
Coalition For A Safe Environment | Committee to Bridge the Gap | Comite Civico  
del Valle, Inc. | Comite Pro Uno | Del Amo Action Committee | East Yard  
Communities for Environmental Justice | EMERGE | Environmental Justice  
Coalition for Water | Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice | Healthy  
Environment For All Lives | Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice |  
Parents Against SSFL | Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition | Sunflower  
Alliance | System Change not Climate Change | Tri-Valley CARES | West Berkeley  
Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs | Wilmington Improvement Network | WOEIP

Mr. Michael Regan  
Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington DC 20460.

February 17, 2023

Re: Opposition to Consideration of Grant Cope as a potential candidate for Assistant  
Administrator at OLEM

Dear Mr. Regan,

Nearly a year ago, two dozen environmental justice groups wrote to you, expressing concern that Grant Cope might be considered for the position of Assistant Administrator (AA) for the Office of Land and Management (OLEM). Now that Carlton Waterhouse has withdrawn from consideration, we are once again deeply concerned that Mr. Cope might be considered for the open position.

You will recall that many of the environmental justice groups that previously opposed Mr. Cope had troubling interactions with him while he served as the Deputy Director of the Site Mitigation and Restoration Program at the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). Mr. Cope has a reputation for ignoring civil rights complaints, excluding impacted communities from meaningful decision-making, and repeatedly favoring

polluters instead of protecting residents. His negligent leadership contributed to delayed cleanups, faulty data, and poor communication, resulting in a breakdown of trust between impacted community members and the DTSC.

Despite the EJ community's concerns about Mr. Cope, he was nonetheless appointed as Senior Advisor to you on OLEM matters last year. He must not be further promoted to Assistant Administrator at OLEM. The AA for OLEM must be deeply committed to protecting environmental justice communities and to healing the harms of the past. Mr. Cope has proven he is unwilling to meet these objectives.

We urge you to prevent Grant Cope from any consideration as Assistant Administrator at OLEM.

*For your convenience, we have attached the previous two letters opposing Grant Cope from any leadership position at OLEM. We have also included a copy of the article from 2021, "Inside EPA: California Equity Groups Oppose DTSC Official For EPA OLEM Director."*

Cordially,

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