



American Federation of Government Employees Local 704

December 3, 2020

Dear President-Elect Biden,

We are the union that represents nearly 1,000 Environmental Protection Agency workers in the Great Lakes. We are writing to recommend that Micah Ragland be appointed as Regional Administrator to lead the EPA Region 5 Office, a position that is critical for the health and welfare of the Great Lakes, and by extension, our nation.

We need someone at the helm of the largest EPA region who will meet this unprecedented moment, who will win the hearts of environmental justice communities harmed by COVID-19, and who will address the environmental pollution entering our air, lakes and land head on.

Like many that might be considered for the position, Micah Ragland has years of experience at EPA communicating about environmental issues and has managed a considerable staff in the private sector. But that alone is not why we recommend him.

Micah Ragland grew up in Flint, Michigan, and still has family there. He was leading EPA's D.C. Office of Public Engagement during the Obama administration when the drinking water disaster struck Flint. He decided he could not stand by and watch as others in EPA responded to his hometown's poisoning. He went to Flint, and for nearly a year worked side by side with EPA field staff, helping them get access to homes where necessary sampling had to be done, and paving the way for the clean-up work of EPA's scientists and engineers on the ground. And Mr. Ragland served as EPA's point person engaging Black faith leaders and congregations. Mr. Ragland's actions to protect the mission of EPA in Flint are not on his CV, but they speak volumes about why we recommend him.

After he left EPA, he worked for four years rolling out renewable energy programs for private industry. Micah will work hard every day to implement your twin priorities of environmental justice and climate change policy in the Midwest.

For four years, we fought the Trump administration's agenda to dismantle the EPA. Now, we would like to see transformative change in our Region. Mr. Ragland is the leader that can bring that change.

We hope you will give our recommendation your utmost consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nicole Cantello', with a stylized, flowing script.

Nicole Cantello
President
American Federation of Government Employees
Local 704

Cc: Illinois Senators
Illinois Representatives