February 4, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Support for Mr. Micah Ragland to be appointed to serve the Environmental Protection
Agency's Region 5 Administrator

Dear President Biden:

We write in support of Micah Ragland to be appointed as the U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency's (EPA's) Region 5 Administrator, which serves Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana,
Wisconsin and Ohio.

As a former EPA official during the Obama administration, Micah demonstrated his commitment
to environmental justice and protecting the Great Lakes. His experience and shared values with
the President and Vice President makes him an excellent choice for this position.

Micah is a native a Flint, Michigan. During his tenure at the EPA during the Obama
administration, he led the communication efforts on the ground in Flint during the city's water
crisis and the federal emergency declaration. Micah is keenly aware of the EPA's important
work to ensure that all communities, including communities of color, have access to safe and
affordable drinking water. Having both grown up and worked in Flint, Micah is well-positioned
to help Flint and communities across the region protect public health and ensure clean drinking
water.

Furthermore, we know Micah is committed to ensuring environmental justice for disenfranchised
communities, especially those across our region that have a heavy industrial presence. During his
work in Congress as a legislative and communications aide to four of Members of Congress,
including Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (SC-02), Micah understands the role the EPA
plays to clean up pollution and help provide economic redevelopment in these places. This
includes work on brownfields, superfund sites and encouraging development of renewable
energy to lower electricity prices and ensure clean air.

Region 5 is responsible for the stewardship of the Great Lakes, which define the geography of the region. The Great Lakes are vital to the livelihood and economy of the region. More than 40 million people depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water. Together, the Great Lakes generate billions in economic activity in the region and help to support over 100,000 jobs. The Great Lakes, however, are under threat from climate change, pollution and invasive species like Asian carp. It will be the responsibility of the Region 5 administrator to implement Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) projects to protect our shared water resources. Micah's experience working for Region 5 provides him a unique ability to oversee the GLRI program.

Finally, Micah has the support of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 704 which represents workers in the Region 5 office. During the Trump administration, federal workers have been under attack. This includes Region 5 employees, whose workforce has been reduced by 25 percent. These cuts have meant less people to protect the region from pollution, restore the Great Lakes and redevelop our communities in a sustainable way. We agree with AFGE that Micah is the right person to rebuild the integrity and trust in this region after years of Republican attacks.

We deeply care about the future of EPA's Region 5 because it is so important to the livelihood and future of our region. Environmental justice and protection of the Great Lakes are top priorities for us and our constituents, and we believe that Micah Ragland is the best suited for the job.
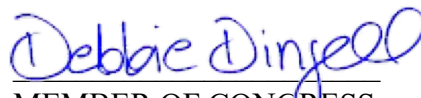
Thank you for your consideration of Micah Ragland to serve as the EPA's Region 5 administrator.

Sincerely,

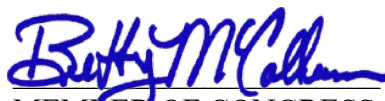MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Daniel T. Kildee

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Debbie Dingell

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Bobby Rush

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
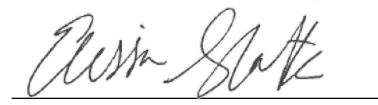Betty McCollum

/s/

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
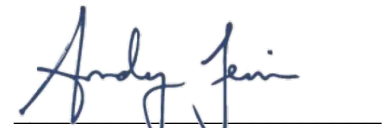André Carson

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
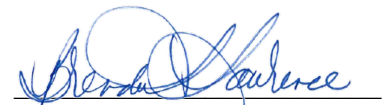Joyce Beatty

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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Dean Phillips

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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Elissa Slotkin

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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Haley M. Stevens

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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Andy Levin

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Brenda L. Lawrence