

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

I write in support of the nomination of Radhika Fox to serve as the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I had the honor of serving as the Senate-confirmed Assistant Administrator for Water from January 8, 2018 to January 7, 2021 and had the opportunity to get to know and work with Radhika during that tenure.

Radhika Fox is well qualified to serve as the Assistant Administrator for Water. She cares deeply about the water sector and understands the importance of the water sector workforce to our daily lives. That workforce needs our collective support and a leader in the Office of Water who understands that water and wastewater operators are front line public health and environmental protection specialists who frequently work without the public appreciation and recognition they deserve. Radhika also understands the importance of water security to our way of life and will continue to push Office of Water employees to be thought leaders in water affordability, water reuse, infrastructure financing, cybersecurity and a host of other issues of critical importance that float below the public's consciousness. Most importantly, Radhika will care for the amazing public servants within the Office of Water and will advocate for their success at the White House, on the Hill, and within EPA, advocacy that is enhanced by the credibility of Senate confirmation.

There will be times that I may disagree with her policy preferences and we may differ on our view of the legal authorities that govern the various water programs at EPA. And that is okay. Diversity of thought is the true strength of our nation. Unfortunately, that foundational touchstone has been lost beneath a sea of partisan rhetoric, and reasoned compromise is a fading art. So, despite our potential areas of disagreement, I believe that Radhika is well qualified to serve as the Assistant Administrator for Water and will look for opportunity to build consensus where feasible. I support her nomination and call for her confirmation.

The Senate is charged with an important role in the process of staffing the senior leadership positions within the Executive Branch. That role includes performing due diligence, asking difficult questions, ensuring the credentials of the nominee, and then consenting to the

President's choice if the nominee is qualified for the position. I believe that process will result in Radhika's successful confirmation and I look forward to the continued great work by the Office of Water career professionals under her leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David P. Ross  
Former Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water, EPA