

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2020

President-elect Joseph R. Biden  
Biden-Harris Transition Team  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Vice President-elect Kamala D. Harris  
Biden-Harris Transition Team  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris:

Congratulations on your historic victory. We commend your unwavering efforts to center the fight against climate change in your plans to rebuild our country.

We write today to recommend Mary Nichols to be the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Her substantial experience and remarkable work as the Chair of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will help the incoming Administration's reinstate and strengthen vital environmental protections, achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, protect environmental justice communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and climate change, and transition to a green economy.

Since the beginning of her legal career fighting to protect Angelinos from air pollution, Ms. Nichols has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to creating, implementing, and strengthening crucial environmental policies in the state of California and beyond. Appointed in 2007 as the Chair of CARB by former Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, she has led the charge on the implementation of the state's Global Warming Solution's Act of 2006, one of the nation's landmark greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction programs. Ms. Nichols' effective leadership has resulted in the most populous state in our nation meeting its GHG emission reduction goals years early<sup>1</sup> while simultaneously enjoying a growing state economy<sup>2</sup>.

Notably, she has defended and built upon the legacy of California's innovative and ambitious environmental laws – which have served as models for federal environmental policy – by working with the Obama Administration to revamp the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to include GHG emissions standards. She has also fought to defend the state's limits on tailpipe air pollution standards against challenges from the Trump Administration.

Ms. Nichols has worked tirelessly to ensure that communities disproportionately harmed by environmental racism are not left behind in California's environmental progress. Strong environmental justice remedies to safeguard and empower communities have been fundamental to CARB's mission and actions throughout her tenure. Under her watch, over \$3.5 billion of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/news/climate-pollutants-fall-below-1990-levels-first-time>

<sup>2</sup> <http://blogs.edf.org/climatetalks/2016/09/01/californias-ambitious-new-climate-commitments-follow-10-years-of-success/>

California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) – about 55 percent of the Fund's expenditures – has been invested in disadvantaged communities. No other climate program in the world has come close. She has also led the development and implementation of numerous first-in-the-world programs to protect and improve public health in front-line communities and taken action to put equity and environmental justice at the core of CARB's mission. Ms. Nichols is eager to build upon these efforts and work with the most vulnerable communities to advance environmental and climate justice.

With nearly fifty years of experience fighting for the environment and communities across the country and an unrivaled track record of successful policy development and implementation, we wholeheartedly believe that Mary Nichols is the most qualified candidate to become EPA Administrator and carry out the new Administration's mission to strengthen our environmental laws, combat the climate crisis, protect the most vulnerable communities, and build back better.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this exceptional candidate. We offer our steadfast support for Ms. Nichols for the role of EPA Administrator.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

/s/

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

/s/

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

/s/

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

/s/

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress