Statement of Alexandra Dapolito Dunn
Nominated to be Assistant Administrator,
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Good morning, Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, and distinguished members of the Committee. I am privileged to appear before you today as you carry out your responsibility to provide advice, and hopefully, consent for my nomination for the position of Assistant Administrator for the EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. I am deeply honored that President Trump, Acting Administrator Wheeler, and this Committee are considering me for this role.

I thank my husband Chris and son Sean, who are here today, my daughter Caroline – who I hope is in class at college – and my mother Barbara and many friends watching this hearing online, for their continued support of my career – which has been quite diverse in roles, responsibilities, and even geography. I thank the many professional colleagues from the academic, legal, scientific, non-profit, corporate, and non-governmental sectors who have given their support to me verbally and in writing through this process.

Members of the Committee, I bring to this role 24 years of complete dedication to environmental law, policy, regulation, and its implementation. The many perspectives from which I have practiced, studied, written, taught, and experienced the body of federal environmental law has prepared me well for the role for which I have been nominated. I have worked for the nation's largest wastewater municipalities, built compromises between the environmental agency directors of all 50 states as Executive Director and General Counsel of ECOS, represented regulated industry on environmental justice and community engagement, and trained many future environmental professionals as a Dean at Pace Law School and Adjunct Professor of Law at three law schools.

Since January I have had the privilege to serve President Trump as the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 1 New England. Alongside the incredible career EPA staff, who daily advance EPA's core mission of protecting public health and the environment with their consummate professional skills and personal passion, Region 1 has taken tangible and protective steps to: restore New England's iconic waterways; remove chemicals from and accelerate the redevelopment of Superfund and brownfield sites; respond to our Tribal Nations; advance community engagement and justice; implement an Integrated Lead Protection Strategy; contribute to the national conversation on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances by hosting the first regional public meeting on the topic; and reduce New Englanders' exposure to unsafe levels of chemicals in the environment and from chemical hazards in their communities.

My Regional experience has increased ten-fold my preexisting respect for EPA as a tremendous federal agency with the capability to do great good as well as my abundant respect for the career EPA staff working every day to ensure public safety and to protect the environment.

If confirmed, I am confident I will lead and manage the chemicals office at EPA and deliver on Congress' vision for an impactful and effective implementation of the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.* As the only environmental statute overhauled in recent years, with overwhelming bipartisan support – from many of you in this room today – this law's implementation requires strong and transparent leadership. In preparation for today, I reflected on my own work on the statute's long journey to reform, as debate was robust while I was Chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, and while I was at ECOS we worked across states collaboratively with Congress. I spoke with many members of this Committee, and with environmental organizations, community groups, states, and the regulated industry, who collectively put significant time, expertise, and personal commitment into the development of the new TSCA requirements.

There are strong views about how this law should be implemented to best realize the bipartisan vision that brought it over the finish line in 2016. If confirmed, I commit to keeping an open door to all groups and entities interested in seeing this law reach its full potential. With continuous deadlines fast approaching and complex scientific risk evaluations that must be undertaken, EPA has a heavy workload. Under the letter of the law, and given the support of this Committee, President Trump and Acting Administrator Wheeler, I am confident that EPA can step up and fulfill with credibility and respect the role that Congress gave us when it reauthorized TSCA and put its implementation in the Agency's hands.

The chemicals office has many important roles and functions beyond *Lautenberg's* implementation, which I plan to support and carry out with equal dedication and interest. These include responsibilities to ensure the safe regulation of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and the Rodenticide Act, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

In conclusion, if confirmed, I will ensure that all programs under my office's responsibility thrive, produce meaningful environmental outcomes, demonstrate the highest and best use of science, and responsibly use taxpayer and other resources.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to be here today. While I would very much miss working with the team at EPA New England, I stand ready to, with your advice and consent, return to Washington to carry out EPA's mission in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention with the utmost integrity and transparency. I respectfully request your support, and I look forward to the questions of you and your colleagues.