

Statement of Senator Joseph I. Lieberman
Supporting the Confirmation of Gina McCarthy

April 2, 2009

Thank you, Chairwoman Boxer.

I strongly support the confirmation of Gina McCarthy to head the Office of Air and Radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She is extremely knowledgeable, accessible and very clearly a passionate environmentalist. She has been an asset to me and my staff and I was thrilled when the President announced her nomination.

Ms. McCarthy's strong environmental record speaks for itself. As Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection, Ms. McCarthy worked tirelessly to protect our state's air, land and water. She helped pioneer our region's approach to addressing climate change and she is widely recognized as a chief engineer of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Since her appointment in 2004, Ms. McCarthy has fought to improve the integrity of Connecticut's parks and forests and she has devoted herself to restoring vitality to the Long Island Sound.

Before coming to Connecticut, Ms. McCarthy served with distinction in a number of health and environmental roles in Massachusetts on both the state and federal level – including positions with the Stoughton Board of Health and Conservation, Massachusetts' Hazardous Waste Facility Site Safety Council, the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Program and the New England Governor's Environment Committee. Ms. McCarthy served as Undersecretary of Policy at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and as the Deputy Secretary of Operations to the Office for Commonwealth Development, where she oversaw the development and implementation of the Massachusetts' first Climate Protection Action Plan.

We have been lucky to have her in Connecticut, and I know she will flourish at EPA. I wish her all the best and a hearty congratulations on her selection to run the Office of Air and Radiation. She has been a great resource to Connecticut and I know she will be an asset to the Obama administration.

Thank you.