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Title: Pollution Prevention Week

Colleagues:

With Pollution Prevention (P2) Week here, it is time once again for us to celebrate the progress we have made in reducing pollution at its source, and recognize the importance of integrating pollution prevention into our work.

Protecting public health and the environment requires a strong prevention approach that minimizes pollution in the first place and avoids environmental problems before they begin. The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 gave our nation a strong start in this direction, and as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of that Act this year, we must recommit ourselves to the goal of pollution prevention and take the next steps to more fully achieve it.

Across EPA, our pollution prevention efforts have helped protect children and families in this country from exposure to harmful pollutants and significantly reduced the amount of contaminants released into the environment. For example:

- Energy Star has eliminated millions of tons of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants by cutting energy demand.
- Programs like WasteWise and Plug-In To eCycling have eliminated billions of pounds of solid waste.
- WaterSense has achieved enormous reductions in water and energy use by promoting water-efficient appliances.
- Our green electronics, green chemistry, green engineering and Design for the Environment (DfE) programs have reduced the use of toxic materials in everyday items like computers and household cleaners, giving consumers a real choice to use less toxic products.

As we have promoted Pollution Prevention, we have been working closely with states, local governments, international organizations, environmental groups and industry to identify pollution prevention opportunities. A great example is the Economy, Energy and Environment (E3) Program, which is helping manufacturers reduce costs and become more efficient, competitive and sustainable.

In the private sector, many companies are going green and building pollution prevention into their operations. These companies recognize that pollution prevention is good for the environment and their financial bottom lines.

But even with all these successes, there is much more to be done. That's why it is important on this 20th Anniversary of the Pollution Prevention Act to recommit EPA to the principles of pollution prevention. We need to expand our efforts to promote innovative P2 solutions and apply them to the environmental challenges our Nation

faces. This includes voluntary, regulatory, compliance, enforcement, information collection, communication, research, and grant-making activities, all of which are vital tools for building a sustainable future.

We must have a strong cross-Agency pollution prevention and sustainability strategy to keep us moving in the right direction. To that end, I am directing the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention to lead the coordination of pollution prevention efforts at EPA and work with all the offices to develop recommendations for how we can more fully integrate P2 in our programs, enhance internal and external collaboration, focus our resources more effectively and use our information tools to better document progress in pollution prevention. I am asking that these recommendations be delivered to me by March 1 next year.

I am counting on each office, each Region, each program and each individual at EPA to contribute as we develop and implement strategies for strengthening and expanding our pollution prevention efforts. Pollution prevention will help us continue to achieve a cleaner environment and a healthier and more sustainable economy.

Thank you again for all your work.

Sincerely,

Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator