

STATEMENT OF ANN ELIZABETH DUNKIN
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BEFORE THE
SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
JUNE 11, 2015

Good afternoon Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer and other members of the Committee.

It is my honor to appear before you as President Obama's nominee to be the Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Before I begin, I want to thank my partner, Kathleen, for her support today and throughout this process and for joining me here today.

While they are no longer with us, I also want to acknowledge my parents for making it possible for me to be here today. My mother started programming in the 1950s at the University of Pennsylvania – one of two women in her class at Wharton. She has been a lifelong role model for me. My father who believed that all of his children – including his daughters - could do anything they set out to do, inspired me to pursue my dreams, even in the male dominated fields of engineering and technology.

My father's family is full of engineers and I have always loved technology. So it was no surprise that I studied engineering in college. I chose industrial engineering because I cared about people and systems as well as things.

After graduating from the Georgia Institute of Technology, I joined Hewlett Packard, where I worked for nearly twenty years. I started as a manufacturing engineer and quickly moved into manufacturing management, where I learned the core values that were embodied in the HP Way and that, even today, guide my work as a leader; values such as treating people with trust and respect, always acting with integrity and accomplishing results through teamwork.

Over time I moved from manufacturing management to software quality to research and development to operations and then to information technology, earning progressively more responsibility along the way. I worked on many exciting projects and programs ranging from running operations for HP's entrepreneurial internet startup businesses during the dot.com boom to developing tools to support printer R&D to managing the IT organization for Indigo, an Israeli digital press manufacturer that HP acquired. My final position at HP was back in R&D as the program manager for a major new printer development program.

Throughout my time in HP's technology-intensive environment, I learned how to manage, lead, and optimize technology functions. And since people are any organization's greatest asset, I learned how to work with and lead people at the same time. From managing a small development team to leading a group of 500 as a program manager, I developed my professional expertise in designing and running technical organizations in one of the best technology companies in history.

After I left HP, I joined the Palo Alto Unified School District as the Director of Technology and, later, as the Chief Technology Officer, where I was responsible for envisioning, procuring, and supporting technology solutions to enable the work of 12,500 high-achieving K-12 students along with nearly 2000 faculty and staff.

While I loved building exciting new technology at HP, I found that working for the Palo Alto Unified School District and helping every student and staff member achieve their potential was more meaningful. Working in the public sector has allowed me to contribute more profoundly to my community than working in the private sector.

Joining the Environmental Protection Agency, where I have been able to contribute not just to my local community, but to impact the entire country and to help improve the quality of life for every American has been a logical next step for me both professionally and personally

It has been a privilege to serve the EPA and Administrator McCarthy for the past ten months and to serve as the EPA's CIO for the past four months.

I am excited about the opportunities before us to build on the EPA's successes and improve the delivery of Information Technology services throughout the Agency; to improve the delivery of mission systems to support the states, tribes, regulated community and general public and to deliver better tools that will allow EPA staff to be more effective and efficient in the performance of their duties.

I am excited by the opportunity that Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) provides to improve oversight and accountability of IT projects and programs throughout the agency and am pleased to have the opportunity to bring Digital Services expertise into the agency to transform the way that the agency performs IT work; to allow us to become more agile and to deliver customer centric, not stakeholder centric, services.

While I am able to lead many of the EPA's IT functions as CIO, there are important duties that are reserved for the Assistant Administrator. Should I be confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity to bring my experience and expertise to the performance of the responsibilities of the Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information.

Thank you Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to meet with you today. I am happy to answer any questions.