Ms. Barbara Morrissey  
Chair, Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee  
Washington State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 47846  
Olympia, Washington  98504-7846

Dear Ms. Morrissey:

Thank you for your recent letter acknowledging the Impact Report that highlights the accomplishments of the Children’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers, jointly supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Your letter has been provided to NIEHS program staff for their awareness, consideration and discussion.

The Impact Report represents the EPA’s commitment to translate research outcomes so that health care providers, public health practitioners, state and federal agencies, and especially community organizations, can put the results to immediate and practical use. I agree with the advisory committee’s recommendation to widely distribute the Impact Report, and we are developing a communication strategy, along with NIEHS, that will reach out to national, tribal, state and local policy makers who are involved in protecting children’s health. This strategy will also include making full use of social media platforms as well as our web presence.

The EPA appreciates the thoughtful recommendations included in your letter, especially the call to reach out to diverse communities. The EPA-NIEHS management team has already begun to apply these recommendations in order to strengthen the oversight of the existing centers. I acknowledge the strong recommendation to continue financial support of the centers. Based on the funding levels included in the FY18 appropriation, I can assure you that we will honor our existing funding commitments to the centers.
We thank you and the rest of CHPAC for your continued support and recommendations for the essential and innovative research carried out by the Children’s Centers, and we greatly appreciate your efforts to improve the health of our nation’s children.

Respectfully yours,

E. Scott Pruitt

cc: Dr. Ruth A. Etzel
Office of Children’s Health Protection, U.S. EPA

Mary Ellen Radzikowski
Office of Research and Development, U.S. EPA

Michael Slimak
Office of Research and Development, U.S. EPA

Dr. Linda Birnbaum
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Gwen W. Collman
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences