TESTIMONY

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HEARING ON
The Office of Research and Development FY 2012 President's Budget
Before the
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
March 10, 2011

Good morning Chairman Hall, Ranking Member Johnson, and other members of the Committee. My name is Paul Anastas**.** I am the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development at the United States Environmental Protection Agency. It is a pleasure to be here with you this morning to discuss EPA's FY 2012 President's Budget for the Office of Research and Development (ORD).

As millions of families are cutting back and spending less, they expect the same good fiscal sense out of their government. The EPA research and development budget reflects the hard choices needed for our nation's short- and long-term fiscal health, while at the same time allowing us to maintain critical research needed to protect public health and the environment.

ORD is unique in the environmental science community because we conduct intramural and extramural research across the entire spectrum of disciplines necessary to support the mission of EPA.

In addition to the cutting edge science that we have traditionally pursued, we will invest in research on innovative technologies and promote synergies

between environmental protection, public health protection and the pursuits of economic growth and job production. As science advances, EPA is working to address the increasing complexity of the 21st century.

The President's 2012 Budget includes $584 million for EPA's Office of Research and Development, a decrease of $12.6 million from the FY 2010 enacted budget, to support research and innovation into new and emerging environmental science. With this investment, we will focus on enhancing and strengthening the planning and delivery of science by restructuring our research and development programs to be more integrated and cross-disciplinary. By strategic internal redirections, EPA will enhance its outreach to the broader scientific community through its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, which funds competitive research grants across a broad range of environmental science and engineering disciplines. This investment will bring innovative and sustainable solutions to environmental science challenges by engaging the academic research community. This request also supports high-priority research of national importance in such areas as:

- Computational Toxicology, which is revolutionizing how chemicals are assessed for potential toxicity to humans and the environment by conducting innovative research that integrates advances in molecular biology, chemistry and innovative computer science to more effectively and efficiently prioritize chemicals, including potential endocrine disruptors, based on risks.
- Green chemistry to develop innovative approaches and tools that inform the design of chemicals throughout their life cycle.

- Innovative drinking water technology to address the Nation's aging water infrastructure by advancing new technologies and working with strategic partners to help bring new cost-effective technologies to the market.
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fellowships to focus the best scientific minds in the environmental field to focus on our hardest problems and develop the next generation of scientists and engineers that will provide the solutions to our Nation's environmental challenges
- Air monitoring research to provide 21st century technologies to improve measurement data to address emerging air quality questions.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we have a strong tradition of excellence in science at EPA—one that we are well positioned to build upon to take environmental protection to the next level. For decades, we have protected human health and the environment by reducing air pollutants and water contaminants, cleaning up hazardous waste sites, and many other significant actions. In 2012 and beyond, we have the opportunity to strengthen this legacy.

I look forward to working with the Committee to address current and emerging environmental problems that will help our Agency protect the environment and human health. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.