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December 23, 2020

Michael S. Regan, Secretary
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
217 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

via e-mail: michael.regan@ncdenr.gov

Dear Secretary Regan,

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) congratulates President-Elect Biden's intent to nominate you to serve as the next Administrator to the Environmental Protection Agency and urges the Senate to confirm you for the position.

As Secretary of Environmental Quality for North Carolina, you are already well-versed in issues related to the environment and understand the importance of proper waste management.

The waste industry is a highly regulated industry requiring significant investments to maintain compliance with existing regulations. Over the years, the industry has reined in methane emissions from landfills and rapidly transitioned to lower impact fuels for its collection vehicles. While this trend has been ongoing, we expect to continue to work with the EPA on these issues over the coming years.

NWRA represents the private-sector waste and recycling industry that is necessary to maintaining our quality of life by protecting public health and the environment. The delivery of waste and recycling services impacts everyone on a daily basis – whether they are at home, at work, or anywhere else. It impacts people at every stage of life, from the youngest to the oldest. As such, NWRA members are classified as essential by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Our members collect, process, and manage waste, recyclables, organics, and medical waste; operate and manage landfills in compliance with all federal and state laws; manage and service truck fleets and collection vehicles; design, manufacture, sell, and service equipment and supplies.

The association's mission is to provide leadership, education, safety expertise, research, and advocacy to promote the waste and recycling industry. NWRA's goal is to ensure a

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climate where our members can continue to provide safe, economically sustainable, and environmentally responsible services and jobs that benefit communities throughout America.

Our members operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and can be found in most, if not all, U.S. congressional districts. Waste and recycling facilities number nearly 18,000 scattered throughout the country, in line with population centers. Our nearly 700 members are a mix of publicly-traded and privately-owned local, regional, and Fortune 500 national and international companies. NWRA represents approximately 70 percent of the private sector waste and recycling market.

The solid waste industry directly employs about 458,000 people as of late 2020 with a total payroll of more than \$28 billion. It is estimated that the private sector waste and recycling industry accounts for over one million jobs and generates nearly a quarter of a trillion dollars in U.S. GDP. The industry's publicly traded companies are among the largest components of the Dow Jones U.S. Waste & Disposal Index (DJUSPC).

Congratulations once again on President- Elect Biden's intent to nominate you to serve our nation as EPA Administrator. Please do not hesitate to call upon us as a resource as you move forward with your environmental agenda.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell K. Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Darrell K. Smith, PhD
President & CEO