UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 15 2011

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ralph J. Cicerone, Ph.D.
President
National Academy of Sciences
Chairman
National Research Council
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Bernard D. Goldstein, M.D.
Professor
Department of Environment and Occupational Health
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Bridgeside Point
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Room 328
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-3130

Dear Drs. Cicerone and Goldstein:

I want to thank the National Research Council for its substantive and prompt response to my request for a report on how to make sustainability operational at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The council's report, *Sustainability and the USEPA*, does an excellent job of addressing several critical questions and making recommendations on how the EPA could improve decision making and further incorporate principles of sustainability into its ongoing work.

When the EPA launched this study, as we marked the agency's 40th anniversary, I noted that many of today's environmental challenges are more complex than in the past. They often encompass social and economic dimensions as well. That is why sustainable solutions that address environmental, economic and social needs are so important. They demand a more integrated, innovative and forward-thinking response. As your report points out, the state of science has evolved so that we can now develop the analytical tools to put sustainability into practice.

I am happy to inform you that we have already begun an agencywide review of your recommendations. During the next few months, we will host a series of listening sessions in which we will ask business, environmental, public-health and other nongovernmental stakeholders; other government departments and agencies; and the public to share thoughts on how the EPA might put your recommendations into practice. As we do so, we will also continue to build upon the ways the EPA has already incorporated sustainability into its work. For example, the EPA will continue its research on the scientific tools necessary to achieve sustainable solutions. The EPA will also continue leading the multiagency

Economy, Energy and Environment Initiative, bringing together federal, state, local and private-sector expertise to help American manufacturers increase efficiencies, reduce waste, create jobs and drive innovation.

The council's report makes note of the EPA's many roles. Collectively, we are a convener of stakeholders, a thought leader, a science and technology innovator, an educator and a regulator. Your report states that "these capabilities provide a solid platform for EPA leadership in advancing a sustainability agenda."

We accept that challenge, and I thank you once more for your work on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa P. Jackson