



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

MAY 6 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Robert Stephens
President
Multi-State Working Group
67 Rock Lane
Berkeley, California 94708

Dear Dr. Stephens:

Thank you for writing to me about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Performance Track program. I appreciate the role that the Multi-State Working Group on Environmental Performance has played during the past 14 years in the dialogue about performance and leadership programs.

As you know, I have decided to halt the current Performance Track Program, taking a pause to evaluate the best ways to promote environmental stewardship. I value your views and those of the Multi-State Working Groups as we consider what approaches might be best for the future.

At my direction, the Agency is initiating two major reviews of Performance Track and leadership programs generally. First, we will convene a multi-stakeholder subcommittee under the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology to advise me on the future of EPA environmental leadership programs. The group will explore opportunities for accelerating stewardship through environmental leadership programs and examine EPA's challenges in designing and managing these programs in the future. We will also continue a current evaluation of these programs by the RAND Corporation. Your letter made several important points relevant to the future of this work, which my staff will pass along to RAND Corporation and the multi-stakeholder NACEPT subcommittee.

I hope that the Multi-State Working Group will continue to be active in the dialogues we are sponsoring over the appropriate role of EPA in striving for environmental stewardship. I look forward to working with you and other environmental thought-leaders in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson".

Lisa P. Jackson