

**Draft Opening Testimony**

**Maureen R. Gwinn, Ph.D., DABT, ATS**

**Deputy Associate Administrator for Science, Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions, Office of the Administrator**

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Good morning, Chairman Babin, Chairman Franklin, Ranking Member Lofgren, Ranking Member Amo and Members of the Subcommittee. My name is Dr. Maureen Gwinn, and I currently serve as EPA's Deputy Associate Administrator for Science in the Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions (OASES). My responsibility in this role is ensuring OASES, in coordination across the Agency, produces rigorous, transparent, and trusted science.

I have worked in the federal government since 2000, and at EPA since 2006. Over nearly two decades at EPA, I have had the privilege to serve in leadership roles dedicated to strengthening the scientific foundation of the Agency's decisions, including as Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development and Acting EPA Science Advisor. As both a scientist and leader, my work has spanned toxicology, risk assessment, and public health.

Throughout my career, I have worked to keep EPA's science objective, credible, and relevant, and I am honored to represent the many EPA scientists and staff dedicated to that mission.

### **EPA Reorganization and the Creation of OASES**

In 2025, EPA implemented organizational improvements designed to strengthen the Agency's capacity to deliver science that meets its statutory obligations and responds to environmental challenges with clarity and speed. This new structure realigns the Agency's scientific expertise more directly with EPA's air, water, land, and chemical program offices, ensuring that applied research is closely connected to regulatory and implementation needs.

A central element of this restructuring was the creation of OASES within the Office of the Administrator, placing science at the forefront of EPA's decision-making. OASES serves as a coordinating hub that ensures consistency and collaboration across EPA's research enterprise, advancing gold standard science and strengthening technical assistance to state and local partners. We focus on applied research that supports statutory needs, along with cross-cutting programs in scientific integrity, children's environmental health, scientific partner engagement, and laboratory operations across the country.

Working collaboratively with other EPA career staff, I helped shape recommendations on the design and structure of the new OASES organization, drawing on EPA's unique assets and capabilities, the Agency's statutory obligations, and other relevant considerations. Now that the reorganization is complete, we are implementing that framework and watching EPA scientific enterprise take shape in real time.

### **OASES Leadership Role**

OASES not only produces science, but also provides oversight, guidance, and coordination of scientific activity across the Agency. We help ensure gold standard science throughout EPA, reinforcing principles that the Agency has upheld since its inception: clarity, transparency, openness to independent validation, collaboration across disciplines, and peer review that is balanced and free from conflicts of interest.

### **State of the Science at EPA**

Following the redistribution of scientific functions across program offices, OASES plays a central role in identifying research needs, ensuring consistency in documenting research activities, and supporting improved tracking and management of scientific work agencywide.

EPA's program offices, which now house more scientists than before, are responsible for defining and implementing their research activities for FY26 and beyond. Together, OASES and the program offices are advancing statutory mandates, addressing priority environmental challenges, and supporting long term research needs.

Looking ahead, it is important to recognize that research planning at EPA remains an ongoing, dynamic process with OASES actively coordinating efforts across the scientific enterprise. While we are laying the groundwork for lasting success, this year marks a pivotal transition, and we remain committed to continuous improvement, learning, and adaptation as we move forward. That spirit of evolution keeps our approach responsive and effective, positioning EPA for sustained excellence in protecting human health and the environment.

Even in this transition year, scientists across EPA are delivering practical tools and research products that advance the Agency's mission. Within OASES, we are leading cutting edge work in support of our partners across the agency, as well as states and Tribes.

## **Closing**

EPA's scientific enterprise remains strong, adaptive, and grounded in decades of expertise. EPA will continue to deliver applied, solution-oriented science across all environmental media, and our commitment to gold standard science ensures that the evidence underpinning EPA decisions remains credible, transparent, and sound.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.