February 17, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for John Cruden’s nomination to become Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) of the Department of Justice.

The undersigned are professors of environmental law who recognize the importance of continuing the ENRD’s long tradition of even-handed enforcement and defense of our nation’s environmental and natural resources laws. We strongly believe that John Cruden is a superb choice to fulfill this role.

Mr. Cruden has devoted nearly his entire working life to public service, including a distinguished career in the military and two decades of service in the very Justice Department division that he has been nominated to lead. Following his graduation from West Point, John served in airborne, ranger and Special Forces units in Germany and Vietnam. After graduating from law school, he served as legal counsel to the military for 14 years in a variety of positions including General Counsel to the Defense Nuclear Agency and Chief Legislative Counsel of the Army.

Mr. Cruden’s more than twenty years of experience at the ENRD make him superbly qualified to lead the division. During his service as Chief of the Environmental Enforcement Section and as the career Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Cruden played a leading role in nearly every major environmental case handled by the ENRD. He acquired a reputation as a “lawyer’s lawyer” who represented the interests of the United States with enormous skill and unfailing fairness.
Mr. Cruden has distinguished himself in virtually everything he has done. For his military service Mr. Cruden was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. For his service in the U.S. Department of Justice, Mr. Cruden received the Presidential Rank Award from three different Presidents, the Department’s Muskie-Chaffee Award, the Federal Bar Association’s Younger Award, and the American Bar Association’s Mary C. Lawton Award for Outstanding Government Service. In addition Mr. Cruden was the first government attorney to be elected and serve as president of the D.C. Bar.

In his current position as president of the Environmental Law Institute, Mr. Cruden has worked tirelessly to improve understanding of environmental law and policy and to bring diverse groups together.

Those of us who have worked directly with John feel privileged to have been able to collaborate with him. All of us know of his outstanding reputation and we are confident that, if confirmed, he again will serve the United States with the greatest distinction. We endorse his nomination with the utmost enthusiasm.

For all of these reasons we urge the Senate to confirm John Cruden to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the ENRD.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Percival
Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law
Director, Environmental Law Program
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Todd Aagaard
Professor of Law
Villanova University School of Law

Adell L. Amos
Associate Professor
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Dean’s Distinguished Faculty Fellow
University of Oregon School of Law

Robert T. Anderson
Professor of Law
Director, Native American Law Center
University of Washington School of Law

William L. Andreen
Edgar L. Clarkson Professor of Law
University of Alabama School of Law
Peter A. Appel
Alex W. Smith Professor of Law
University of Georgia School of Law

Vicki Arroyo
Executive Director, Georgetown Climate
Center Asst. Dean, Centers & Institutes,
Visiting Professor, and Environmental Law
Program Director, Georgetown Law

Hope Babcock
Professor of Law
Director of the Institute for Public
Representation (Environmental Division)
Georgetown University Law Center

Adam Babich
Professor of Law
Tulane Law School

Jane F. Barrett
Law School Professor & Director,
Environmental Law Clinic
University of Maryland Francis King Carey
School of Law

Deborah Behles
Associate Professor of Law
Golden Gate University School of Law

Professor Ben Boer
Deputy Chair, IUCN World Commission
on Environmental Law
Emeritus Professor in Environmental Law
Australian Centre for Climate and
Environmental Law
University of Sydney Law School

Michael C. Blumm
Jeffrey Bain Faculty Scholar & Professor
of Law
Lewis and Clark Law School

John E. Bonine
B.B. Kliks Professor of Law
University of Oregon School of Law

Rebecca M. Bratspies
Professor of Law
Director, Center for Urban Environmental
Reform
CUNY School of Law

Dr. Wil Burns, Associate Director
Master of Science - Energy Policy &
Climate Program
Johns Hopkins University

William W. Buzbee
Professor of Law
Director, Emory Environmental and
Natural Resources Law Program Director,
Emory Center on Federalism &
Intersystemic Governance Emory Law
School
Jonathan Z. Cannon
Blaine T. Phillips Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law
Class of 1941 Research Professor of Law
Director, Environmental and Land Use Law Program
University of Virginia School of Law

David N. Cassuto
Professor of Law and Director, Brazil-American Institute for Law & Environment
Pace University Law School

Jamison E. Colburn
Joseph H. Goldstein Faculty Scholar
Professor of Law
Penn State University

Liz Ryan Cole
Professor of Law
Vermont Law School

Kim Diana Connolly
Professor of Law
Vice Dean for Legal Skills
Director of Clinical Legal Education
SUNY Buffalo Law School

Emily A. Collins
Clinical Associate Professor
Supervising Attorney
University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Karl Coplan
Professor of Law
Pace University School of Law

Robin K. Craig
William H. Leary Professor of Law
University of Utah
S.J. Quinney College of Law

Myanna Dellinger
Assistant Professor of Law
Director, Institute for Global Law and Policy
Western State College of Law

John C. Dernbach
Distinguished Professor of Law
Co-Director, Environmental Law Center
Widener University School of Law

Holly Doremus
James H. House and Hiram H. Hurd Professor of Environmental Regulation
Director, Environmental Law Program
University of California-Berkeley School of Law

K.K. DuVivier
Professor of Law
University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Victor B. Flatt
Tom & Elizabeth Taft Distinguished Professor of Law
Director, Center for Law, Environment, Adaptation, and Resources
University of North Carolina School of Law

Richard M. Frank
Professor of Environmental Practice
Director, California Environmental Law & Policy Center
School of Law
University of California Davis
Jody Freeman
Archibald Cox Professor of Law
Director, Environmental Law Program
Harvard Law School

Michael B. Gerrard
Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice
Director, Center for Climate Change Law
Columbia Law School

Robert L. Glicksman
J.B & Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of Environmental Law
The George Washington University Law School

Dale D. Goble
Schimke Distinguished Professor of Law
University of Idaho College of Law

Steve C. Gold
Professor of Law and Judge Raymond J. Dearie Scholar
Rutgers School of Law-Newark

Lin Harmon
Professor of Law
Assistant Dean and Director, Environmental Law Programs
Pace University School of Law

Michael P. Healy
Wendell H. Ford Professor of Law
University of Kentucky College of Law

Sean B. Hecht
Executive Director, Environmental Law Center
UCLA School of Law

Lisa Heinzerling
Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., Professor of Law
Georgetown University Law Center

Michael Herz
Arthur Kaplan Professor of Law
Co-Director, Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy
Yeshiva University Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Tracy Hester
Professor of Practice
University of Houston Law Center

David R. Hodas
Professor of Law
H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law
Widener University School of Law

Oliver A. Houck
Professor of Law
Tulane University Law School

Craig Johnston
Professor of Law
Clinical Director, Earthrise Law Center
Lewis and Clark Law School

Sam Kalen
Associate Professor of Law
Director, Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies
University of Wyoming College of Law

Helen H. Kang
Professor of Law
Director, Environmental Law and Justice Clinic
Golden Gate University School of Law
Christine A. Klein  
Chesterfield Smith Professor of Law  
Director, LL.M. Program in Environmental and Land Use Law  
University of Florida Levin College of Law

Kathryn E. Kovacs  
Assistant Professor of Law  
Rutgers School of Law - Camden

Howard A. Latin  
Distinguished Professor of Law and Justice John J. Francis Scholar Rutgers  
University School of Law

Richard J. Lazarus  
Howard and Katherine Aibel Professor of Law  
Harvard Law School

Amanda Leiter  
Associate Professor of Law  
American University Washington College of Law

Sarah E. Light  
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies and Business Ethics The Wharton School

Albert C. Lin  
Professor of Law  
University of California-Davis School of Law

Edward Lloyd  
Evan M. Frankel Clinical Professor in Environmental Law  
Director of Clinical Education  
Columbia Law School

Kenneth A. Manaster  
Professor of Law  
Presidential Professor of Ethics and the Common Good  
Santa Clara University Law School

Kenneth Markowitz  
Adjunct Professor  
American University Washington College of Law

James R. May  
Professor of Law  
Co-Director, Environmental Law Center  
Widener University School of Law

Patrick C. McGinley  
Charles H. Haden Professor of Law  
West Virginia University College of Law

Errol Meidinger  
Margaret W. Wong Professor of Law  
Director, Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy State University of New York-Buffalo Law School

Nina A. Mendelson  
Joseph L. Sax Collegiate Professor of Law  
University of Michigan Law School

Joel A. Mintz  
Professor of Law  
Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center

Antonio Oposa  
School of the SEA  
Bantayan, Cebu Philippines
Hari M. Osofsky  
Professor of Law  
2013-14 Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs  
Director, Joint Degree Program in Law, Science & Technology  
University of Minnesota Law School

LeRoy C. Paddock  
Associate Dean for Environmental Studies  
Professorial Lecturer in Law  
George Washington University Law School

Michael Pappas  
Assistant Professor of Law  
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Pat Parenteau  
Professor of Law  
Senior Counsel to the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic  
Vermont Law School

Justin Pidot  
Assistant Professor of Law  
University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Zygmunt Jan Broël Plater  
Professor of Law  
Boston College Law School

Ann Powers  
Associate Professor of Law  
Pace University School of Law Center for Environmental Legal Studies

Michael Robinson-Dorn  
Clinical Professor of Law  
Director, Environmental Law Clinic  
University of California-Irvine School of Law

Nicholas A. Robinson  
University Professor on the Environment and Gilbert and Sarah Kerlin Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law Co-Director, Center for Environmental Legal Studies  
Pace University Law School

Daniel Rohlf  
Professor of Law and Of Counsel, Earthrise Law Center  
Lewis & Clark Law School

J.B. Ruhl  
David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair in Law  
Co-Director, Energy, Environmental, and Land Use Program  
Vanderbilt University Law School

Irma S. Russell  
Dean and Professor  
The University of Montana School of Law

Melissa K. Scanlan  
Associate Dean for Environmental Programs  
Director, Environmental Law Center  
Associate Professor  
Vermont Law School

Christopher H. Schroeder  
Charles S. Murphy Professor of Law and Professor of Public Policy  
Duke University School of Law
Mark Squillace  
Professor of Law  
Director of the Natural Resources Law Center  
University of Colorado Law School

Amy L. Stein  
Associate Professor of Law  
Tulane University Law School

Stephen Stec  
Adjunct Professor  
Central European University

Stephanie Tai  
Associate Professor  
University of Wisconsin Law School

Victor M. Tafur  
Visiting Professor of Environmental Law  
Bard Center for Environmental Policy, Bard College

A. Dan Tarlock  
Distinguished Professor of Law  
Director of the Program in Environmental and Energy Law  
Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law

Anastasia Telesetsky  
Associate Professor  
University of Idaho College of Law

Gerald Torres  
Marc and Beth Goldberg Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law,  
Cornell Law School Professor and Bryant Smith Chair in Law,  
University of Texas School of Law

David M. Uhlmann  
Jeffrey F. Liss Professor from Practice  
Director, Environmental Law and Policy Program University of Michigan Law School

James M. Van Nostrand  
Associate Professor  
Director, Center for Energy and Sustainable Development  
West Virginia University College of Law

Michael P. Vandenbergh  
David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair of Law  
Co-Director, Energy, Environment and Land Use Program  
Vanderbilt University Law School

Wendy Wagner  
Joe A. Worsham Centennial Professor  
University of Texas School of Law

Michael Wara  
Associate Professor of Law  
Justin M. Roach, Jr. Faculty Scholar  
Stanford Law School

Jonathan B. Wiener  
William R. and Thomas L. Perkins Professor of Law  
Duke University School of Law
Tseming Yang
Professor of Law and Professor of
Environmental Policy
Faculty Director of Graduate Legal
Programs
Santa Clara University Law School

Durwood Zaelke
President, Institute for Governance and
Sustainable Development
Adjunct Professor, American University
Washington College of Law

Sandra Zellmer
Robert B. Daugherty Professor
University of Nebraska College of Law