



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

July 20, 2005

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

Dear Mr. President:

I am honored to have served the past four and a half years as the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation at the United States Environmental Protection Agency. I will always be grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. Although I very much enjoy my work here, it is time for me to step down and devote more time to my wife and children. Thus, I write to inform you of my desire to resign from my position, effective August 30, 2005.

When I came to EPA, I was determined to make decisions based on a set of principles that I know you support: the use of sound science to identify real environmental problems, the use of benefit-cost analysis to determine how far the government should go in addressing those problems, and the use of policy analysis to design the most efficient approaches for addressing them. I was also determined to replace existing command-and-control programs with more effective market-based approaches wherever possible.

One of the most gratifying things about my time at EPA is the support I have received from a remarkable group of career employees who are committed to these same principles – and who have worked tirelessly to see that they are reflected in all our programs. Based on these principles, we have taken a number of important actions to improve air quality and make EPA's regulatory and non-regulatory programs more effective.

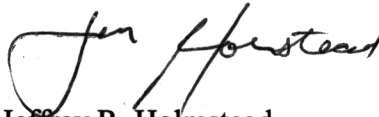
Working closely with other members of your Administration, for example, we have developed and issued two rules that will each provide more public health benefits than any rule initiated by EPA since the phase-out of lead in gasoline. The Clean Air Interstate Rule establishes a cap-and-trade program that will reduce pollution from power plants by almost 70 percent. And the Non-Road Diesel Rule will require new diesel engines used in construction, agriculture and other non-road equipment to be more than 90 percent cleaner than similar engines sold anywhere in the world today.

These are just two examples of the things we have been able to accomplish under your leadership. Both of these rules have been widely, and deservedly, praised. But I am equally proud of the many other things we have done: our actions to reform the New Source Review program; our rules to improve visibility in national parks; our efforts to implement more health-protective air quality standards; our ongoing activities under such programs as Methane-to-Markets, Energy Star, and Smartway that achieve substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; our efforts to reduce exposure to indoor radon; and our Clean Air Mercury Rule, which makes the U.S. the first country in the world to regulate mercury emissions from power plants.

I am grateful to you and the other members of your Administration who have been strongly supportive of my efforts. It has been a great pleasure to serve in an Administration that is willing to stand by principle and do the right thing. Looking back over the last four and a half years, I am proud to be able to say that all my decisions and actions have been based on my commitment to good public policy and the principles that you have supported in the regulatory arena.

My tenure at EPA has been the most challenging and rewarding experience I could ever hope to have. Thank you for giving me the great privilege of serving under and alongside the good men and women you have chosen for your Administration.

With deep respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Holmstead". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey R. Holmstead

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500