

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

IIIN 1 N 2022

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Alison C. Cullen, Sc.D. Chair, Science Advisory Board U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Cullen:

I would like to thank you for your April 25, 2022, letter regarding the consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on how cumulative impact assessments can inform EPA decision-making and on future directions in research to support cumulative impact assessments.

The EPA requested this consultation with the Science Advisory Board because addressing the cumulative impacts of exposure to multiple chemical and non-chemical stressors is necessary for the EPA to fulfill its mission of protecting human health and the environment. The EPA continually seeks a better understanding of how to address gaps and barriers to the application of cumulative impact assessment in the near-term and how to improve the state of the science in the long-term.

I appreciate the experience, perspectives and breadth, depth and diversity of expertise that you have offered to the agency. The EPA benefits from your thoughtful input regarding near-term application of cumulative impact assessment to support decision-making, as well as to inform our research that will improve the state-of-the-science and set the stage for new best practices.

I am also appreciative of your advice regarding our research framework and definitions, gaps and barriers and research recommendations. The Office of Research and Development will prepare a final version of its report on "Cumulative Impacts: Recommendations for ORD Research" that will benefit substantially from your expert input.

The EPA values you and the entire Science Advisory Board, as you are a critical to our developing new data, methods, tools and approaches so that we have the best available science to inform decisions.

In the meantime, please accept my best regards.

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Michael S. Regan