

From the Regional Administrator

A MESSAGE TO THE RESIDENTS OF ALASKA, IDAHO, OREGON AND WASHINGTON

Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington (EPA Region 10) combine some of our nation's wildest natural places with a robust and diverse economic and population base. We enjoy some of the planet's most precious natural wonders and natural resources – requiring special care in preserving these assets for future generations.

I was born and raised in the Territory of Alaska and have lived my entire life in the Northwest. I have always been dependent on a healthy environment. I come to the job as Regional Administrator humbled by the responsibility that EPA Region 10 bears to keep our air pure, water clean and land better protected.

Our economy has transformed the wild Northwest to one of the world's great industrial, agricultural, and shipping centers. Those who reside here understand better than most that a healthy environment and teeming economy compliment and encourage one another. EPA Region 10 staff make it a theme of our everyday work.

Since the creation of the EPA in 1970, Region 10 has been at the forefront of innovative environmental protection efforts. During the last 30-plus years, the economy has boomed while we've cleaned up our air, water, and lands in ways many never thought possible.

As we move into our next 30 years, the EPA's committed crew of experts here in Region 10 is tackling some of the most complex natural resource issues anywhere:

- ✓ *Ensuring that oil-and-gas harvesting in Alaska is done in the most environmentally protective way possible;*
- ✓ *Improving the health of the Columbia River Basin from Canada to the Pacific Ocean;*
- ✓ *Cleaning up a century's worth of mining pollution in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin;*
- ✓ *Improving the health of the environment and the residents of Tribal lands;*
- ✓ *Improving our air and health by reducing the amount of fine particulate matter from diesel emissions and smoke; and*
- ✓ *Cleaning up and returning to productive use the region's most contaminated sites.*

These are big jobs. But the EPA's formula for success has always been to rely on close partnerships with industry, with other government agencies, and most importantly, with the people in our communities.

Everyone has a stake in the health of our environment. EPA Region 10 looks ahead at great opportunities to protect our environment and our Northwest way of life.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. John Iani". The signature is stylized and fluid.

L. John Iani
Regional Administrator, EPA Region 10
June, 2002