

## **MICHAEL REGAN SELECTED TO HEAD EPA**

On December 17, the Biden-Harris campaign announced Michael S. Regan as their pick for Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The campaign passed over candidates with many more years of experience. Progressive groups apparently objected to the favorite, California clean-air regulator Mary Nichols, because she hadn't done enough to address disproportionate harm to low-income and communities of color living next to oil and gas installations, factories and freeways.

Michael Regan has 21 years of professional experience in environmental matters. He would be the second black person to serve as EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson appointed by Obama being the first. Mr. Regan was appointed to the top position at the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) on Jan. 3, 2017, overseeing approximately \$2 billion in assets, 1,600 employees and seven regional offices across the state. A champion of climate change, Mr. Regan was responsible for negotiating a tough multibillion-dollar settlement with Duke Energy for cleanup of coal ash ponds, and establishing an environmental justice advisory board. He has received praise from the state Sierra Club for his work.

Interestingly, Ryke Longest, founding director of the Duke University Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, opined that Regan helped restore morale at NCDEQ, after a polarizing performance by his predecessor, whom critics accused of weakening the department and showing favor to polluting industries.

From 2006 to 2018, Mr. Regan was Southeast Regional Director of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), a liberal environmental advocacy group frequently litigating environmental issues. At EDF he focused on climate change and air quality pollution. Mr. Regan also served as Associate Vice President of the U.S. Climate and Energy.

Prior to working at EDF, Mr. Regan worked in the air quality program for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clinton and Bush administrations.

In 2016 he founded M. Regan & Associates, LLC, the mission of which is to help organizations find transformational solutions to complex energy, environmental and economic challenges.

Regan has served on the University of North Carolina School of Law Center for Climate, Energy, Environment and Economics, Green 2.0, the North Carolina Commission on Global Climate Change, the N.C. Energy Policy Council, and the Executive Steering Committee of Envision Charlotte.

He has a bachelor's degree in Earth and Environmental Science from the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from George Washington University.