



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
William D. Barber, Jr. Chapter of Blacks in Government
Ben Franklin Station P.O. Box 289
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Happy New Year EPA-William D. Barber, Jr. Chapter of Blacks In Government!

It is with a humble spirit that I bring you greetings as your Chapter President for 2017-2019 biennial term. It is indeed an honor and most certainly a privilege to serve you in this capacity in which I do not take lightly. I have been a member of the EPA-William D. Barber, Jr. Chapter since 1996 and a Gold Plus Life Member of BIG since 2005. During my time in the Chapter, I have served in various capacities, however, mostly in the roles of Recording Secretary and Regional Representative, and now as Chapter President and Region XI Council Recording Secretary.

As the recent political climate has proven, the position of leadership, such as being a President, can be challenging for the elected/appointed individual chosen to serve. Understanding this, and knowing that every decision and action must be made in the best interest of the Chapter and the organization as whole. The realization for me has always been that to successfully move this Chapter forward, we as a collective body must contribute 100%, therefore, our theme for the 2017-2019 biennial term is **"Transitioning and Moving Forward Together."** We are now in a season that is challenging not just our willingness to unite, but also our resolve to stand for what is right, fair and equitable, to each of us as citizens, but more importantly as humanity, just as so many of those who came before us has done. In moving forward, we must make sure that the mission of the Chapter aligns and collaborates with that of the Agency, therefore, I have written out the mission, and goals and objectives of the EPA-William D. Barber, Jr. Chapter during the 2017-2019 term in the attached document.

Finally, as we move forward, it is my goal to partner with and engage management at all levels, and to communicate and educate EPA's Agency heads on the purpose, mission, goals and vision of Blacks In Government. However, to accomplish this, I need the support and assistance of the Chapter's membership to display a representation of BIG that is nothing short of excellence and professionalism. I look forward to partnering with all of you to make this term one of change, impact, and progress. Our first Chapter meeting of this year and officers' installation will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017. Again, thank you for trusting me with this responsibility and thank you for thinking BIG!

LaShan Haynes

President

EPA-William D. Barber, Jr. Chapter

Region XI

