

# Peter Lopez to Lead EPA's Region 2

Republican Assemblyman Peter Lopez has been appointed the Region 2 administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, the agency announced in September.

Lopez, first elected to the Assembly in 2007, replaces Judith Enck in the high-profile post that oversees the EPA's work in a large swath of the northeast and Caribbean islands.

"Pete Lopez has spent nearly a decade in one of the country's largest state legislatures working to improve the quality of life of his constituents," said Administrator Scott Pruitt. "His familiarity with the region and his experience working to solve environmental problems in New York will be invaluable in helping EPA serve Americans in the Northeast and the Caribbean."

Region 2 covers New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The job is key for New York, especially given drinking water concerns in upstate and Long Island communities in recent years that have led to clashes between the federal agency and the Cuomo administration. Both Puerto

Rico and the Virgin Islands have been devastated by recent hurricanes, likely making those areas a top priority for him as he takes the new post.

Lopez last year unsuccessfully sought the GOP nomination for the 19th congressional district in the Hudson Valley, dropping his bid before the GOP primary.

It's not yet clear who would succeed Lopez in his Assembly seat, which includes seven counties from the Southern Tier to the Catskills.

"I want to thank Assemblyman Pete Lopez for his hard work on behalf of his constituents and the residents of New York State," said Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb. "He will be missed in our Conference, but I wish him well in his new position as the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 Administrator. I am certain he will serve the EPA with the same hard work and dedication he exhibited as representative of the 102nd Assembly District."