To: ted_lehman@tillis.senate.gov[ted_lehman@tillis.senate.gov]
Cc: Lyons, Troy[lyons.troy@epa.gov]
From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tue 11/7/2017 1:10:40 AM
Subject: getting back with you
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Inquiry response.docx
2017-10-27 EPA Nominee Dr. Michael Dourson.docx

Ted, I read through the NewsObserver article again, and the NGOs are really good at trying to tie our nominee to wrong narratives.

In setting him up for the hearing and choosing him for nomination we really valued his 15 years at EPA and his background as an academic rather than a corporate scientist or even a state regulator (which really there are not many because EPA permits chemical uses instead of states having their own programs).

But I wanted to attach a TCE case in which Dourson testified as an expert witness. It's not the most interesting, but it fairly represents his work and character instead of the science for hire charges. Attached is the backgrounder on TCE which I think Troy provided your office. The short of it though is that Dourson assembled a team which conducted a study, and Dourson's subsequently wrote a publication based on the work which set a range for TCE concentrations. EPA's safe concentration in air is 2 to 3 ug/m3 but it allows a range going up ten-fold. In Dourson's report from 2013 his range for TCE concentrations were also defined in a range and were of 3 to 30 ug/m3, similar to EPA's definition.

The article is simply interested in being misleading, and they know how to get to the heartstrings. Their PFOA example is another one which is isn't true. The article doesn't go into the fact that the work they criticize Dourson for doing was in 2002. And even then, he did work at the request of West Virginia, assembled a team and was awarded an environmental stewardship award from the state. More importantly and more recently, he met with Senator Capito at length, talked through prior work, and he still has no trouble supporting his nomination. She's on EPW and voted to report him from committee.

One of the things which we also want to highlight is the example where he helped a family in Kentucky with hydrogen sulfides in their water. I spoke to the mother of the family late last week and just asked her about it. The story can be watch on this clip:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epwdtcl-Zmk&feature=youtu.be

It's worth watching. Mike's organization is "TERA." But the mother, Angie Johnson, told me that Mike was the only individual which explained to them the problem, did all the sampling and work for free, and he's the kind of people who should be in government. She's eager to contribute to helping.

So, I'm eager to get into chemical by chemical what the truth of the matter is with your team and help flesh this out. And I'm also eager to get everyone with more help to push back on NGOs organized to simply kill the nomination. Would like to talk more tomorrow or when you have time.

Thanks

Ryan.

Ryan Jackson

Chief of Staff

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy