To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:54:43 PM
Subject: FW: Confirmation of Scott Pruitt Will Bring Balance to the EPA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jennifer Drogus (202) 637-3090

Confirmation of Scott Pruitt Will Bring Balance to the EPA

Washington, D.C., February 17, 2017 – National Association of Manufacturers President and CEO Jay Timmons issued the following statement congratulating Scott Pruitt on his confirmation as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator:

"After facing record high costs to comply with EPA regulations over the past decade, manufacturers welcomed today's Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We are confident that under his leadership, Pruitt will restore balance to the way environmental regulations are developed. Manufacturers look forward to him getting to work right away.

"Manufacturers know it's possible to have responsible environmental stewardship and robust economic growth at the same time. We are leaders on sustainability and developing emissions-reducing innovations, and as we look to find solutions to the environmental challenges we face, manufacturers will continue to lead the way."

-NAM-

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) is the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Manufacturing employs more than 12 million men and women, contributes $2.17 trillion to the U.S. economy annually, has the largest economic impact of any major sector and accounts for more than three quarters of private-sector research and development. The NAM is the powerful voice of the manufacturing community and the leading advocate for a policy agenda that helps manufacturers compete in the global economy and create jobs across the United States. For more information about the Manufacturers or to follow us on Shopfloor, Twitter and Facebook, please visit www.nam.org.

733 10th St. NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 637-3000

To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 3:13:54 PM
Subject: RE: Crop Life's Statement

Excellent statement. We're putting it in another "what they are saying" email blast this morning.

From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Crop Life's Statement

Crop Life's statement is outstanding and I didn't want it to get lost! Just making sure you saw this! See below! Amy

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bennett, Tate" <Tate.Bennett@nreca.coop>
Date: February 17, 2017 at 8:20:15 PM EST
To: "Dewey, Amy" <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

On: 17 February 2017 20:16, "Dewey, Amy" <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you, very helpful

From: Rashid G. Hallaway [mailto:rhallaway@hhqventures.com]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:47 PM

To: Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>; Bennett, Tate <Tate.Bennett@nreca.coop>; John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Jeremy Stump <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

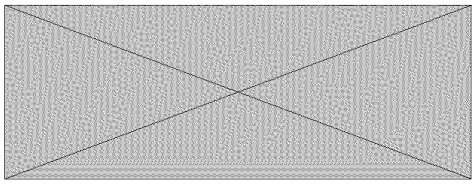
See below from Crop Life. Thank you, Jeremy!

From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:45 PM
Subject: RE: AFBF Statement on Pruitt
To: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>
Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920] <scott.kuschmider@monsanto.com>, Robert Hobart <rob@hobartventures.com>

Rashid,

Crop Life's supportive release just came in as well.

Jeremy



For Immediate Release: February 17, 2017
Contact: Genevieve O'Sullivan
Phone: (202) 872-3864
Email: gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

-

CLA Looks to EPA Administrator Pruitt to Increase Transparency, Predictablity

WASHINGTON, DC– Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Administrator Pruitt has a long career serving the people of Oklahoma, most recently as its attorney general. He was also elected to the Oklahoma Senate from 1998 until 2006. In January, CropLife America (CLA) signed a letter of support for the President's nomination of Pruitt to lead the EPA. With Pruitt at the helm of the Agency, the association is hopeful that EPA will be responsive to the concerns of the crop protection industry and guide the Agency to a more transparent and predictable pesticide registration process.

"EPA needs an effective leader, un-swayed by the whims of unscientific fear campaigns," stated Jay Vroom, president and CEO of CLA. "Through his service to the great state of Oklahoma, Administrator Pruitt has shown that he carefully listens to the needs of agriculture and other constituents and works to get policy outcomes that adhere to science and law. We are eager to share our priority issues with the new leadership at EPA, including the need for rigor in examining studies used in human health risk assessments. After Sonny Perdue is confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture, we can all focus on getting farmers the finest technology that science can bring."

"The scientific community looks to government leaders to place facts over opinions and carefully consider existing data," stated Dr. Janet E. Collins, executive vice president of science and regulatory affairs at CLA. "We are confident that Administrator Pruitt will not only keep an open mind regarding the advancement of farming but will support the technologies that continue to move American farming forward. Our industry looks to the new EPA leadership to ensure that the Agency uses only the best available science in the regulation of crop protection products. The protection of the environment, the health of our families and the strength of U.S. farming depend on it."

CLA actively engages with consumers, food bloggers, farmers, chefs, foodies, journalists and others interested in food production on social media, including Facebook,Twitter and Instagram. Get involved now with the conversation on how to move U.S. farming forward with #FoodForward. For more information on how farmers use crop protection technology to grow healthy food, visitwww.GiveaCrop.org.

-xxx-

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From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:36:27 PM
To: Rashid G. Hallaway
Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920]; Robert Hobart
Subject: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

Farm Bureau Hails Pruitt Confirmation

Newsroom / Feb 17th, 2017

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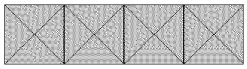

The following may be attributed to Zippy Duvall, president, American Farm Bureau Federation:

"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment.

"For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA's harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation.

"In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

Contact:
Will Rodger
Director, Policy Communications

(202) 406-3642
willr@fb.org

Mace Thornton
Executive Director, Communications
(202) 406-3641
macet@fb.org

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To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Bennett, Tate
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 1:20:15 AM
Subject: Re: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

Rashid also represents Steve Chancellor, former CEO of Patriot Coal and the Coal Utilization Research Council. Just in case you hadn't crossed paths!

On: 17 February 2017 20:16, "Dewey, Amy" <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov> wrote:

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Cc: Jeremy Stump <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

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To: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>
Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920] <scott.kuschmider@monsanto.com>, Robert Hobart <rob@hobartventures.com>

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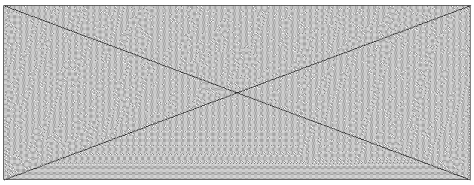
Jeremy



For Immediate Release: February 17, 2017
Contact: Genevieve O'Sullivan
Phone: (202) 872-3864
Email: gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

-

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-xxx-

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Farm Bureau Hails Pruitt Confirmation

Newsroom / Feb 17th, 2017

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willr@fb.org

Mace Thornton
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(202) 406-3641
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Cc: Jeremy Stump [jeremy.stump@monsanto.com]
From: Rashid G. Hallaway
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 8:46:45 PM
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

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To: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>
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Phone: (202) 872-3864
Email: gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

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Newsroom / Feb 17th, 2017

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Contact:
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Director, Policy Communications
(202) 406-3642
willr@fb.org

Mace Thornton
Executive Director, Communications
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macet@fb.org

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To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Scott Yager
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 7:42:08 PM
Subject: FW: Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

Amy,

Great talking with you earlier. I've forwarded our statement regarding Mr. Pruitt's confirmation. Please let me know if you need anything else. I will reach back out to you on Tuesday regarding a meeting with Mr. Pruitt. I will coordinate the agricultural groups on my end so we can have one meeting rather than a piecemeal approach.

Thank you very much. You're going to be very busy these next months so if there's anything I can do to assist you please don't hesitate to reach out! -Scott

Scott Yager

Environmental Counsel

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

1275 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 801

Washington DC, 20004

202-879-9102

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From: Ed Frank
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Ed Frank <efrank@beef.org>
Subject: Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Ed Frank 202-879-9125 efrank@beef.org
Shawna Newsome 202-879-9138 snewsome@beef.org

Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

WASHINGTON (Feb. 17, 2017) -- Craig Uden, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) today released the following statement in response to the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Scott Pruitt to be the next administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) –

"For far too long, the EPA has been a runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers, who use – and responsibly care for – the environment while providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world. Scott Pruitt will restore some common sense to environmental policy and we look forward to working with him on restoring regulatory sanity to Washington, such as by killing the onerous 'waters of the United States' rule."

###

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has represented America's cattle producers since 1898, preserving the heritage and strength of the industry through education and public policy. As the largest association of cattle producers, NCBA works to create new markets and increase demand for beef. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or membership@beef.org.

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To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Popovich, Luke
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 7:31:52 PM
Subject: Fwd: NMA Welcomes a New Leader at EPA

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Press Release <PressRelease@nma.org>
Date: February 17, 2017 at 1:53:05 PM EST
To: zNMA-All <NMA-ALL@nma.org>
Subject: NMA Welcomes a New Leader at EPA

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Luke Popovich
(202) 463-2620
lpopovich@nma.org

Feb. 17, 2017

NMA Welcomes a New Leader at EPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *National Mining Association (NMA) president and CEO Hal Quinn issued the following statement on the Senate vote to confirm former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):*

"The mining community welcomes Mr. Pruitt to Washington as EPA administrator. He brings to this important position a wealth of knowledge about the laws that provide environmental protection to the American people, as well as respect for the

law and its limitations on a powerful bureaucracy. As a distinguished attorney general he has demonstrated his appreciation for the right of states to manage their affairs where the law allows, and coming from an important energy state he is mindful of the costs that regulations can impose on the economy.

“NMA looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his staff to deliver the balanced policies the nation deserves.”

###

The National Mining Association (NMA) is the voice of the American mining industry in Washington, D.C. Membership includes more than 325 corporations involved in all aspects of coal and solid minerals production including coal, metal and industrial mineral producers, mineral processors, equipment manufacturers, state mining associations, bulk transporters, engineering firms, consultants, financial institutions and other companies that supply goods and services to the mining industry.

National Mining Association 101 Constitution Avenue, NW • Suite 500 East • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 463-2600

To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:58:04 PM
Subject: RE: Confirmation of Scott Pruitt Will Bring Balance to the EPA

Good work!

From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Confirmation of Scott Pruitt Will Bring Balance to the EPA

John,

Here is NAM's

Our press statement on Administrator Pruitt is below.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

Jennifer Drogus (202) 637-3090

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"After facing record high costs to comply with EPA regulations over the past decade, manufacturers welcomed today's Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We are confident that under his leadership, Pruitt will restore balance to the way environmental regulations are developed. Manufacturers look forward to him getting to work right away.

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733 10th St. NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 637-3000

To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Nolan, Rich
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:57:11 PM
Subject: NMA Welcomes a New Leader at EPA

Rich Nolan
Senior Vice President, Government and Political Affairs
National Mining Association
101 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite 500 East
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: (202) 463-2600
Direct: (202) 463-3241
rnolan@nma.org

From: Press Release
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:53 PM
To: zNMA-All <NMA-ALL@nma.org>
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Contact:

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NMA Welcomes a New Leader at EPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *National Mining Association (NMA) president and CEO Hal Quinn issued the following statement on the Senate vote to confirm former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):*

"The mining community welcomes Mr. Pruitt to Washington as EPA administrator. He brings to this important position a wealth of knowledge about the laws that provide environmental protection to the American people, as well as respect for the law and its limitations on a powerful bureaucracy. As a distinguished attorney general he has demonstrated his appreciation for the right of states to manage their affairs where the law allows, and coming from an important energy state he is mindful of the costs that regulations can impose on the economy.

"NMA looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his staff to deliver the balanced policies the nation deserves."

###

The National Mining Association (NMA) is the voice of the American mining industry in Washington, D.C. Membership includes more than 325 corporations involved in all aspects of coal and solid minerals production including coal, metal and industrial mineral producers, mineral processors, equipment manufacturers, state mining associations, bulk transporters, engineering firms, consultants, financial institutions and other companies that supply goods and services to the mining industry.

ED_001268A_00000110

To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Ross Eisenberg
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:30:32 PM
Subject: Fw: Confirmation of Scott Pruitt Will Bring Balance to the EPA

Our press statement on Administrator Pruitt is below.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jennifer Drogus (202) 637-3090

Confirmation of Scott Pruitt Will Bring Balance to the EPA

Washington, D.C., February 17, 2017 – National Association of Manufacturers President and CEO Jay Timmons issued the following statement congratulating Scott Pruitt on his confirmation as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator:

"After facing record high costs to comply with EPA regulations over the past decade, manufacturers welcomed today's Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We are confident that under his leadership, Pruitt will restore balance to the way environmental regulations are developed. Manufacturers look forward to him getting to work right away.

"Manufacturers know it's possible to have responsible environmental stewardship and robust economic growth at the same time. We are leaders on sustainability and developing emissions-reducing innovations, and as we look to find solutions to the environmental challenges we face, manufacturers will continue to lead the way."

-NAM-

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) is the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Manufacturing employs more than 12 million men and women, contributes $2.17 trillion to the U.S. economy annually, has the largest economic impact of any major sector and accounts for more than three quarters of private-sector research and development. The NAM is the powerful voice of the manufacturing community and the leading advocate for a policy agenda that helps manufacturers compete in the global economy and create jobs across the United States. For more information about the Manufacturers or to follow us on Shopfloor, Twitter and Facebook, please visit www.nam.org.

733 10th St. NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 637-3000

To: Newton[Newton@autoalliance.org]
From: Newton
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:18:30 PM
Subject: Alliance Statement on Pruitt Confirmation

Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance issued this statement today in response to the confirmation of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt:

"We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track.

"The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That's why standards must also reflect market realities.

"We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

Wade Newton

Senior Director of Communications

202.326.5571

Note New Email Address: *newton@autoalliance.org*

To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 2:06:54 PM
Subject: Re: Getting Back to You

Excellent work keep them coming!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 17, 2017, at 9:01 AM, Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov> wrote:

John,

Here is the statement from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. **This will go when the vote on the Hill is completed or they receive our press release announcing his official confirmation.** Gloria is their VP for Communications. Amy

Here are nomination and confirmation statements from the Alliance. Gloria

CONFIRMATION STATEMENT: Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance released this statement:

"We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track. The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That's why standards must also reflect market realities. We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

PRUITT NOMINATION STATEMENT: Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance issued this statement today on the naming of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator:

“Over the past couple years, we’ve had the opportunity to visit with Attorney General Pruitt in his current role. He is a terrific public servant, a great listener and a principled leader. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity after confirmation to help ensure that the midterm process for fuel economy and greenhouse gases is completed thoroughly and with close attention to achieving a balanced outcome so that we can continue to achieve gains in fuel efficiency and carbon reduction while also protecting customer affordability and auto-dependent jobs.”

To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Gloria Bergquist
Sent: Thur 2/16/2017 11:29:28 PM
Subject: Re: Getting Back to You

Here are nomination and confirmation statements from the Alliance. Mitch will be waiting for a call on Tuesday. Thanks for heads up. Gloria

CONFIRMATION STATEMENT: Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance released this statement:

> "We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track. The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That's why standards must also reflect market realities. We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

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Sent from my iPad

On Feb 16, 2017, at 4:05 PM, Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov> wrote:

Gloria,

It looks like Pruitt will be here tomorrow and on the job. His political staff has asked me to gather up all of the statements about him. So if you all

issue anything, will you please send it to me. Actually you usually do this anyway. As of now, the CEO/President calls will be placed on Tuesday. Thank you, Amy

Amy H. Dewey

Special Assistant – Office of the Administrator – Office of Public Engagement – Environmental Protection Agency – Tel. 202 564-7816 – dewey.amy@epa.gov

To: Dewey, Amy[Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Ross Eisenberg
Sent: Thur 2/16/2017 9:51:08 PM
Subject: FW: Timmons: President-Elect Trump Signals an End to the EPA's Regulatory Assault on Manufacturers

This went out the day Pruitt was nominated.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jennifer Drogus (202) 637-3090

Timmons: President-Elect Trump Signals an End to the EPA's Regulatory Assault on Manufacturers

Washington, D.C., December 8, 2016 – National Association of Manufacturers President and CEO Jay Timmons issued the following statement on the nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator:

"Today's nomination signals that President-elect Donald Trump will end the EPA's regulatory assault on manufacturers. This is the type of change manufacturers voted for, and we're hopeful the next administration will strike the right balance between environmental stewardship and economic growth.

"Manufacturers have helped to usher in a new era of a cleaner and more sustainable environment, and we remain as committed as ever to reducing emissions,

improving our energy efficiency, recycling more and reducing waste. As a sector, we have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent since 2005, while our value added to the economy has increased by 19 percent over the same time period.

"We look forward to working with President-elect Trump and Scott Pruitt, once confirmed as administrator, to build on this past success. We believe the EPA can drive continued environmental quality improvements, while reducing overreaching, inflexible federal policies that threaten manufacturing's competitiveness. Many of the largest and costliest regulations issued over the past several years have come from the EPA.

"Manufacturing innovation remains the best solution to addressing climate change and most of the environmental challenges facing the country and world."

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:55:31 PM
Subject: FW: Confirmation of Scott Pruitt Will Bring Balance to the EPA

John,

Here is NAM's

Our press statement on Administrator Pruitt is below.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

Jennifer Drogus (202) 637-3090

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733 10th St. NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 637-3000

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
Cc: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:22:45 PM
Subject: FW: Alliance Statement on Pruitt Confirmation

Just got a call that he is confirmed, so statements should be coming in soon! Amy

Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance issued this statement today in response to the confirmation of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt:

"We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track.

"The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That's why standards must also reflect market realities.

"We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

Wade Newton

Senior Director of Communications

202.326.5571

Note New Email Address: *newton@autoalliance.org*

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:16:43 PM
Subject: FW: Getting Back to You

Cathy, this is all I have for right now

John,

Here is the statement from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. **This will go when the vote on the Hill is completed or they receive our press release announcing his official confirmation.** Gloria is their VP for Communications.
Amy

Here are nomination and confirmation statements from the Alliance. Gloria

CONFIRMATION STATEMENT: Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance released this statement:

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"Over the past couple years, we've had the opportunity to visit with Attorney General Pruitt in his current role. He is a terrific public servant, a great listener and a principled leader. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity after confirmation to

help ensure that the midterm process for fuel economy and greenhouse gases is completed thoroughly and with close attention to achieving a balanced outcome so that we can continue to achieve gains in fuel efficiency and carbon reduction while also protecting customer affordability and auto-dependent jobs."

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 2:01:24 PM
Subject: Getting Back to You

John,

Here is the statement from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. **This will go when the vote on the Hill is completed or they receive our press release announcing his official confirmation.** Gloria is their VP for Communications.
Amy

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To: Ross Eisenberg[REisenberg@nam.org]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Tue 2/21/2017 7:27:46 PM
Subject: RE: Timmons: President-Elect Trump Signals an End to the EPA's Regulatory Assault on Manufacturers

Thank you and we will be putting out shortly the press release on his address this morning. Amy

From: Ross Eisenberg [mailto:REisenberg@nam.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:13 PM
To: Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Timmons: President-Elect Trump Signals an End to the EPA's Regulatory Assault on Manufacturers

Thanks - I think we're all set on our board meeting, my understanding is our board team has already been plugged in with Administrator Pruitt's scheduling team. If I can find out more i'll let you know; I don't want to keep you out of the loop.

From: Dewey, Amy

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:07 PM

To: Ross Eisenberg

Subject: RE: Timmons: President-Elect Trump Signals an End to the EPA's Regulatory Assault on Manufacturers

Ross,

Thanks for all of the help last week in pulling together the comment's NAM made in support of Pruitt. He did well this morning! I am trying to meet with some of his personal staff shortly to process 2 scheduling proposals. I will be glad to add your request to the list, if you still need help! Thanks, Amy

From: Ross Eisenberg [mailto:REisenberg@nam.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:51 PM
To: Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Timmons: President-Elect Trump Signals an End to the EPA's Regulatory Assault on Manufacturers

This went out the day Pruitt was nominated.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

Jennifer Drogus (202) 637-3090

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733 10th St. NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 637-3000

To: Ross Eisenberg[REisenberg@nam.org]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Tue 2/21/2017 6:07:39 PM
Subject: RE: Timmons: President-Elect Trump Signals an End to the EPA's Regulatory Assault on Manufacturers

Ross,

Thanks for all of the help last week in pulling together the comment's NAM made in support of Pruitt. He did well this morning! I am trying to meet with some of his personal staff shortly to process 2 scheduling proposals. I will be glad to add your request to the list, if you still need help! Thanks, Amy

From: Ross Eisenberg [mailto:REisenberg@nam.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:51 PM
To: Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Timmons: President-Elect Trump Signals an End to the EPA's Regulatory Assault on Manufacturers

This went out the day Pruitt was nominated.

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 1:50:09 PM
Subject: Crop Life's Statement

Crop Life's statement is outstanding and I didn't want it to get lost! Just making sure you saw this! See below! Amy

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bennett, Tate" <Tate.Bennett@nreca.coop>
Date: February 17, 2017 at 8:20:15 PM EST
To: "Dewey, Amy" <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

On: 17 February 2017 20:16, "Dewey, Amy" <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you, very helpful

From: Rashid G. Hallaway [mailto:rhallaway@hhqventures.com]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:47 PM
To: Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>; Bennett, Tate <Tate.Bennett@nreca.coop>; John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Jeremy Stump <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

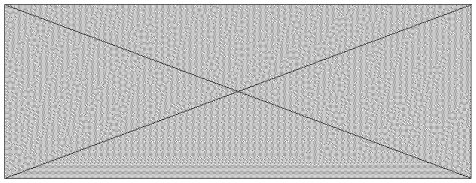
See below from Crop Life. Thank you, Jeremy!

From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:45 PM
Subject: RE: AFBF Statement on Pruitt
To: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>
Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920] <scott.kuschmider@monsanto.com>, Robert Hobart <rob@hobartventures.com>

Rashid,

Crop Life's supportive release just came in as well.

Jeremy



For Immediate Release: February 17, 2017
Contact: Genevieve O'Sullivan
Phone: (202) 872-3864
Email: gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

-

CLA Looks to EPA Administrator Pruitt to Increase Transparency, Predictablity

WASHINGTON, DC– Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Administrator Pruitt has a long career serving the people of Oklahoma, most recently as its attorney general. He was also elected to the Oklahoma Senate from 1998 until 2006. In January, CropLife America (CLA) signed a letter of support for the President's nomination of Pruitt to lead the EPA. With Pruitt at the helm of the Agency, the association is hopeful that EPA will be responsive to the concerns of the crop protection industry and guide the Agency to a more transparent and predictable pesticide registration process.

“EPA needs an effective leader, un-swayed by the whims of unscientific fear campaigns,” stated Jay Vroom, president and CEO of CLA. “Through his service to the great state of Oklahoma, Administrator Pruitt has shown that he carefully listens to the needs of agriculture and other constituents and works to get policy outcomes that adhere to science and law. We are eager to share our priority issues with the new leadership at EPA, including the need for rigor in examining studies used in human health risk assessments. After Sonny Perdue is confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture, we can all focus on getting farmers the finest technology that science can bring.”

“The scientific community looks to government leaders to place facts over opinions and carefully consider existing data,” stated Dr. Janet E. Collins, executive vice president of science and regulatory affairs at CLA. “We are confident that Administrator Pruitt will not only keep an open mind regarding the advancement of farming but will support the technologies that continue to move American farming forward. Our industry looks to the new EPA leadership to ensure that the Agency uses only the best available science in the regulation of crop protection products. The protection of the environment, the health of our families and the strength of U.S. farming depend on it.”

CLA actively engages with consumers, food bloggers, farmers, chefs, foodies, journalists and others interested in food production on social media, including Facebook,Twitter and Instagram. Get involved now with the conversation on how to move U.S. farming forward with #FoodForward. For more information on how farmers use crop protection technology to grow healthy food, visitwww.GiveaCrop.org.

-xxx-

Established in 1933,CropLife America (CLA) represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CLA’s member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all of the vital and necessary crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers. CLA can be found on Twitter at@CropLifeAmerica. CLA supports CropLife StewardshipFirst.

From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:36:27 PM
To: Rashid G. Hallaway
Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920]; Robert Hobart
Subject: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

Farm Bureau Hails Pruitt

Confirmation

Newsroom / Feb 17th, 2017

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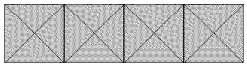

The following may be attributed to Zippy Duvall, president, American Farm Bureau Federation:

“Scott Pruitt’s confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America’s farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment.

“For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA’s harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation.

“In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We’re optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation’s natural resources each and every day.”

Contact:
Will Rodger
Director, Policy Communications
(202) 406-3642
willr@fb.org

Mace Thornton
Executive Director, Communications
(202) 406-3641
macet@fb.org

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 9:16:17 PM
Subject: National Association of Home Builders

NAHB Congratulates Scott Pruitt on his Confirmation as EPA Administrator

February 17, 2017

Granger MacDonald, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and a home builder and developer from Kerrville, Texas, today issued the following statement regarding the Senate confirmation of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

"NAHB congratulates Scott Pruitt on being confirmed as the nation's next EPA Administrator. Pruitt understands the need for a commonsense regulatory process that is based on sound science, and does not trample states' rights or ignore the economic impact on small businesses. NAHB looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his team to help move towards this more reasonable approach."

Amy H. Dewey

Special Assistant – Office of the Administrator – Office of Public Engagement – Environmental Protection Agency – Tel. 202 564-7816 – dewey.amy@epa.gov

To: John Konkus[john.a.konkus@ptt.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 8:54:33 PM
Subject: FW: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

-

CLA Looks to EPA Administrator Pruitt to Increase Transparency, Predictablity

WASHINGTON, DC– Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Administrator Pruitt has a long career serving the people of Oklahoma, most recently as its attorney general. He was also elected to the Oklahoma Senate from 1998 until 2006. In January, CropLife America (CLA) signed a letter of support for the President's nomination of Pruitt to lead the EPA. With Pruitt at the helm of the Agency, the association is hopeful that EPA will be responsive to the concerns of the crop protection industry and guide the Agency to a more transparent and predictable pesticide registration process.

"EPA needs an effective leader, un-swayed by the whims of unscientific fear campaigns," stated Jay Vroom, president and CEO of CLA. "Through his service to the great state of Oklahoma, Administrator Pruitt has shown that he carefully listens to the needs of agriculture and other constituents and works to get policy outcomes that adhere to science and law. We are eager to share our priority issues with the new leadership at EPA, including the need for rigor in examining studies used in human health risk assessments. After Sonny Perdue is confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture, we can all focus on getting farmers the finest technology that science can bring."

"The scientific community looks to government leaders to place facts over opinions and carefully consider existing data," stated Dr. Janet E. Collins, executive vice president of science and regulatory affairs at CLA. "We are confident that Administrator Pruitt will not only keep an open mind regarding the advancement of farming but will support the technologies that continue to move American farming forward. Our industry looks to the new EPA leadership to ensure that the Agency uses only the best available science in the regulation of crop protection products. The protection of the environment, the health of our families and the strength of U.S. farming depend on it."

CLA actively engages with consumers, food bloggers, farmers, chefs, foodies, journalists and others interested in food production on social media, including Facebook,Twitter and Instagram. Get involved

now with the conversation on how to move U.S. farming forward with #FoodForward. For more information on how farmers use crop protection technology to grow healthy food, visitwww.GiveaCrop.org.

-xxx-

Established in 1933,CropLife America (CLA) represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CLA's member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all of the vital and necessary crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers. CLA can be found on Twitter at@CropLifeAmerica. CLA supports CropLife StewardshipFirst.

Farm Bureau Hails Pruitt Confirmation

Newsroom / Feb 17th, 2017

Share This Article

The following may be attributed to Zippy Duvall, president, American Farm Bureau Federation:

"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment.

"For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA's harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation.

"In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look

forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

Contact:
Will Rodger
Director, Policy Communications
(202) 406-3642
willr@fb.org

Mace Thornton
Executive Director, Communications
(202) 406-3641
macet@fb.org

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To: Rashid G. Hallaway[rhallaway@hhqventures.com]; Bennett, Tate[Tate.Bennett@nreca.coop]; John Konkus[john.a.konkus@ptt.gov]
Cc: Jeremy Stump [jeremy.stump@monsanto.com]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 8:53:24 PM
Subject: RE: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

Thank you, very helpful

From: Rashid G. Hallaway [mailto:rhallaway@hhqventures.com]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:47 PM
To: Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>; Bennett, Tate <Tate.Bennett@nreca.coop>; John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Jeremy Stump <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

See below from Crop Life. Thank you, Jeremy!

From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:45 PM
Subject: RE: AFBF Statement on Pruitt
To: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>
Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920] <scott.kuschmider@monsanto.com>, Robert Hobart <rob@hobartventures.com>

Rashid,

Crop Life's supportive release just came in as well.

Jeremy

For Immediate Release: February 17, 2017
Contact: Genevieve O'Sullivan
Phone: (202) 872-3864
Email: gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

-

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WASHINGTON, DC– Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Administrator Pruitt has a long career serving the people of Oklahoma, most recently as its attorney general. He was also elected to the Oklahoma Senate from 1998 until 2006. In January, CropLife America (CLA) signed a letter of support for the President's nomination of Pruitt to lead the EPA. With Pruitt at the helm of the Agency, the association is hopeful that EPA will be responsive to the concerns of the crop protection industry and guide the Agency to a more transparent and predictable pesticide registration process.

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From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:36:27 PM
To: Rashid G. Hallaway
Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920]; Robert Hobart
Subject: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

Farm Bureau Hails Pruitt Confirmation

Newsroom / Feb 17th, 2017

Share This Article

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"In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 7:50:18 PM
Subject: FW: Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

John, I like this "Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity to EPA", good messaging. Amy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Ed Frank 202-879-9125 efrank@beef.org
Shawna Newsome 202-879-9138 snewsome@beef.org

Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

WASHINGTON (Feb. 17, 2017) -- Craig Uden, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) today released the following statement in response to the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Scott Pruitt to be the next administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) –

"For far too long, the EPA has been a runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers, who use – and responsibly care for – the environment while providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world. Scott Pruitt will restore some common sense to environmental policy and we look forward to working with him on restoring regulatory sanity to Washington, such as by killing the onerous 'waters of the United States' rule."

###

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has represented America's cattle producers since 1898, preserving the heritage and strength of the industry through education and public policy. As the largest association of cattle producers, NCBA works to create new markets and increase demand for beef. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or membership@beef.org.

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 7:01:56 PM
Subject: FW: NMA Welcomes a New Leader at EPA

OK, National Mining Association, Amy

Rich Nolan
Senior Vice President, Government and Political Affairs
National Mining Association
101 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite 500 East
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: (202) 463-2600
Direct: (202) 463-3241
rnolan@nma.org

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Luke Popovich
(202) 463-2620
lpopovich@nma.org

Feb. 17, 2017

NMA Welcomes a New Leader at EPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *National Mining Association (NMA) president and CEO Hal Quinn issued the following statement on the Senate vote to confirm former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):*

"The mining community welcomes Mr. Pruitt to Washington as EPA administrator. He

brings to this important position a wealth of knowledge about the laws that provide environmental protection to the American people, as well as respect for the law and its limitations on a powerful bureaucracy. As a distinguished attorney general he has demonstrated his appreciation for the right of states to manage their affairs where the law allows, and coming from an important energy state he is mindful of the costs that regulations can impose on the economy.

"NMA looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his staff to deliver the balanced policies the nation deserves."

###

The National Mining Association (NMA) is the voice of the American mining industry in Washington, D.C. Membership includes more than 325 corporations involved in all aspects of coal and solid minerals production including coal, metal and industrial mineral producers, mineral processors, equipment manufacturers, state mining associations, bulk transporters, engineering firms, consultants, financial institutions and other companies that supply goods and services to the mining industry.

National Mining Association 101 Constitution Avenue, NW • Suite 500 East • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 463-2600

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: Wed 2/22/2017 4:56:43 PM
Subject: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

Hello,

I hope your day is going well. I'm the new oil and gas policy reporter for Politico Pro. I was wondering if anyone at the EPA could chat briefly about the FOIA request the NRDC issued earlier asking for the authors for the EPA's press releases announcing the confirmation of Scott Pruitt. Does the EPA have a reaction to the request? If someone could give me a call at the phone number below, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

PoliticoPro, oil and gas reporter

Office: 703-647-8775

mobile: 313-473-0537

@bjlefebvre

To: Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
Cc: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]; Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Tue 2/21/2017 11:47:55 PM
Subject: Administrator Arrival Actions and Results

Doug and John,

Just wanted to share some summary information on steps leading up to and through the Administrator's arrival today. Below the actions from Office of Public Affairs you will find articles covering Administrator Pruitt's speech today. Thanks, George

Press Outreach:

- Sent out Confirmation Press Release twice on 2/17.
- Sent out "What They are Saying" Releases on 2/17 and 2/18.
- Sent out Media Advisory for Administrator Speech on 2/17 and 2/21.
- Sent out Press Release on Administrator's Speech on 2/21.
- Responded to numerous press inquiries related to confirmation and speech.

Social Media Posts:

- Social media posts (throughout the weekend as well)
- 2 Instagram
- 10 Facebook posts (main account)
- 4 Facebook posts (administrator account)
- 8 tweets (main account)
- 6 tweets (administrator account)

Web Updates:

- Homepage,
- About EPA,

•□□□□□□□□ Administrator Bio page,

•□□□□□□□□ Current Leadership page,

•□□□□□□□□ Created 'photos' and 'videos' pages for staff event,

•□□□□□□□□ Created and managed the 'live' streaming page through the event

Photos and Video:

•□□□□□□□□ Photographed official portrait

Green Room Event:

•□□□□□□□□ Worked with OEI (for two weeks) to test and add web streaming capability for YouTube live

•□□□□□□□□ Official portraits taken and posted to OM galleries, White House badge photo

•□□□□□□□□ Staging and break down of Green Room for live event

•□□□□□□□□ Web stream of live event via YouTube

•□□□□□□□□ Live on EPAtv national Channel One

•□□□□□□□□ Phone conference call with 1400 listeners.

•□□□□□□□□ Processed and posted events photos for both external and internal viewers

•□□□□□□□□ Processed video of full event posted to YouTube for external viewers

•□□□□□□□□ Processed video of full event posted to OM intranet site for internal viewers

•□□□□□□□□ Edited two social media video clips posted to YouTube

•□□□□□□□□ Prepared three infographics featuring Administrator quotes provided for social media posting

Internal Communications:

•□□□□□□□□ Developed four main products to support Administrator Pruitt's arrival – intranet banner, mass mailer announcing event and logistics, article for the internal newsletter, and EPA

express post.

•□□□□□□□□ Drafted and posted intranet banner:

o Provided graphics support to develop multiple versions (5-6) of the intranet banner, working with three separate images and a few different quotes.

▪· Coordinated with OWC and Liz Pucci to ensure consistent look/feel/tone of images and messages with external comms/social media and digital signs being used throughout HQ.

▪· Spearheaded a quote for the banner that was customized for internal consumption.

o Coordinated with intranet POCs across the agency to ensure posting of banner on local intranet sites.

•□□□□□□□□ Drafted and distributed mass mailer

o Drafted and revised mass mailer announcing event, managing input on both the substantive message and the logistics.

•□□□□□□□□ Initiated procurement of sign language interpreters.

•□□□□□□□□ Drafted and distributed newsletter

o Reviewed press release and recommended direction for newsletter article.

o Drafted article.

o Provided graphic support to tailor initial image for use in article, and reworked the image multiple times.

o Reworked article to include link to video.

•□□□□□□□□ EPA Express post (LAN bulletin)

o Drafted post, which we'll push out tomorrow and continue to amplify this week.

Coverage of Administrator Pruitt's Speech: Reuters, Time, Fiscal Times, Fox News, InsideEPA, Wall Street Journal, Buzzfeed News, Mashable, Business Insider, Argus Media, Bloomberg, The Hill, Washington Post, Huffington Post, CNN, The Guardian, LA Times, Bloomberg BNA, Politico, E&E News, Forbes, Washington Examiner, Washington Times, CNBC

Reuters

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-epa-idUSKBN1601Q3

New U.S. environmental chief says agency can also be pro jobs

By Timothy Gardner 2/21/17, 4:23PM

The new head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Tuesday that America need not choose between jobs and the environment, in a nod to the energy industry as the White House prepares executive orders that could come as soon as this week to roll back Obama-era regulation.

"I believe that we as an agency, and we as a nation, can be both pro-energy and jobs, and pro-environment," Scott Pruitt said in his first address to staff. "We don't have to choose between the two."

Critics of the agency have complained that regulations ushered in by former President Barack Obama have killed thousands of energy jobs by imposing restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions and by limiting areas open to coal mining and oil drilling.

But Democrats, environmental advocates and many of the EPA's current and former staff worry President Donald Trump's appointment of Pruitt signals a reversal in America's progress cleaning air and water and in fighting global climate change.

Pruitt sued the agency he now leads more than a dozen times while attorney general of Oklahoma to stop federal environmental rules, and has expressed doubts about the science behind climate change.

He struck a conciliatory tone in his address, saying he would "listen, learn and lead" and that he valued civil discussion and the contributions of career staff.

Trump is expected to sign executive orders aimed at reshaping U.S. environmental policy as early as this week, the Washington Post reported. He would instruct the Department of the Interior to lift a ban on new coal mining leases on federal lands and would require the EPA to ease greenhouse gas emissions curbs on electric utilities, according to the report.

The orders would also require the EPA to change Obama's Waters of the United States rule that details which U.S. waterways fall under federal environmental protection, according to the report.

The White House did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the Washington Post story.

Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate last week after contentious hearings that focused on his record as top prosecutor of oil- and gas-producing state Oklahoma.

"Pruitt has been a shill for the fossil fuel industry his entire career, and there's no reason to believe he's going to stop now," said League of Conservation Voters senior vice president

Tiernan Sittenfeld.

But many Republican lawmakers view Pruitt as a refreshing change at the top of an agency they have long accused of federal overreach.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Both Trump and Pruitt have expressed doubts about climate change, and Trump vowed during his 2016 campaign for the White House to pull the United States out of a global pact to fight it.

Trump has promised to slash environmental regulation ushered in by Obama, and to help bolster the drilling and mining industries, but without hurting air and water quality.

A spokeswoman for the American Petroleum Institute, which represents oil and gas companies, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Before Pruitt's confirmation, some 800 former EPA staff signed a letter urging senators to reject him, and around 30 current EPA staff joined a protest set up by the environmental group Sierra Club in Chicago.

Liz Purchia, who headed EPA public affairs during the Obama administration, said Pruitt may struggle to get staff to quickly dismantle regulations. Accomplishing agency priorities was "no easy task" when political appointees and career workers at the EPA agreed most of the time in the Obama years, Purchia said. "Let's see how well they do getting staff, who feel disrespected, to follow them."

Democrats had sought to delay Pruitt's nomination over questions about his ties to the oil industry in Oklahoma.

In Oklahoma, a state judge ruled last week that he will have to turn over thousands of emails between his office and energy companies by Tuesday after a watchdog group, the Center for Media and Democracy, sued for their release.

The judge will review and perhaps hold back some of the emails before releasing them, a court clerk said.

(Reporting by Timothy Gardner; Writing by Richard Valdmanis; Editing by Howard Goller and Alistair Bell)

Time

http://time.com/4676732/donald-trump-epa-executive-orders/

President Trump Is Expected to Make a Significant Rollback to EPA Regulations

By Justin Worland 2/21/17

President Donald Trump is expected to announce his most significant moves yet to roll back environmental regulations this week as his newly confirmed pick to lead the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) enters office.

Trump is readying multiple executive orders to roll back several key EPA regulations including the central Obama-era policy addressing climate change, according to reports in several outlets. The executive orders would not undo the policies immediately but would direct the agency to begin the long process required of undoing federal regulation.

The Clean Power Plan, former President Obama's main policy aimed at addressing climate change, ranks high among the likely targets of Trump's actions. The regulation requires states to come up with plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, a policy that is widely expected to hasten the transition away from coal-fired power plants.

Trump promised repeatedly to undo the Clean Power Plan on the campaign trail, though the process will take require more than a simple stroke of a pen. Many environmental policy experts have speculated on how Trump might try to achieve that goal following his election win in November. The administration could have refused to defend the rule in court or asked Congress to pass a law amending the Clean Air Act, which was used to issue the rule in the first place. But the use of executive order suggests the administration will instead take the most straight-forward option of simply unraveling the rule, a years-long process that will almost certainly result in litigation.

But Trump will have a capable ally implementing his order at the EPA. Administrator Scott Pruitt, who took office last Friday, has gained extensive knowledge and experience with the intricacies of EPA regulation at least in part through his 14 lawsuits against the agency as Oklahoma's attorney general. Environmental law experts say that his expertise will help the Trump administration navigate a bureaucracy that might otherwise flummox an agency outsider. "He's got some experience and knows how to get things done in government," said Brendan Collins , an environmental lawyer at the firm Ballard Spahr, prior to Pruitt's confirmation. "That is something that may distinguish him."

Pruitt has not yet laid out detailed priorities for the agency, but in remarks on Tuesday he cited federalism and the rule of law as guiding principles. Presumably Trump's orders, which could come as soon as Wednesday, will fill in the blanks. "Process matters," Pruitt said in address to the agency's career employees. "Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate."

Other targets of Trump's executive orders could include U.S. participation in the landmark on Paris Agreement climate change. Trump vowed to renegotiate the deal or pull out it altogether last year but softened his tone after winning the election. Because the agreement is not a formal treaty, the president has the right to withdraw. But such a move cannot occur until 2019, three years after the measure took effect. Reports last month suggested that Trump might sign an executive order calling for a reevaluation of a wide range of United Nations measures that could include the Paris Agreement rather than pulling out full stop now. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said he supports the climate deal.

Another executive order is expected to target the Water of the United States rule, a 2015 policy that classifies which bodies of water are under federal protection. Critics have said the government lacks the authority to regulate many of the bodies included in the rule and argued that it impedes economic development.

The executive orders will build on a series of actions taken by Republicans in Congress to undo environmental regulations issued by the Obama administration in the final months of his presidency including a measure that protects streams from coal debris. Undoing those measures required only a majority vote in Congress and the approval of the president under the Congressional Review Act.

Fiscal Times

http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2017/02/21/EPA-Chief-s-Magical-Thinking-Push-Energy-Production-and-Protect-Planet

EPA Chief's Magical Thinking: Push Energy Production and Protect the Planet

By Eric Pianin 2/21/17

The Trump administration offered a foretaste of its environmental policy with a speech on Tuesday by Scott Pruitt, the new Environmental Protection Agency administrator. Pruitt vowed to do as much to promote energy production and job creation as he would to protect against climate change.

Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general and a close ally of the fossil fuel industry who made a career of challenging EPA's clean air and water regulations, spelled out his management philosophy during his first speech to the agency's15,000 employees.

Related: The Senate Just Confirmed the EPA's Arch Enemy to Run the Agency

"I believe that we as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs, and pro-environment, that we don't have to choose between the two," Pruitt said during a relatively brief speech from EPA's headquarters.

"I think our nation has been better than any nation in the world at making sure that we do the job of protecting natural resources and protecting our environment, while also respecting the economic growth and jobs our nation seeks to have," he said.

Pruitt, 48, used his position as state attorney general to sue the EPA at least 14 times – frequently in tandem with major fossil fuel companies that supported his elections. He is widely viewed as the chief architect of the assault against former President Barack Obama's climate change policies that were aimed at sharply reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's aging power plants.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that President Trump is preparing executive orders designed to curtail Obama-era policies on climate change and water pollution.

Related: A Climate Change Doubter Will Overhaul the EPA in Trump's Administration

One of the orders will instruct the EPA to begin rewriting the 2015 regulation that limits greenhouse gas emissions from existing, coal-fired electric utilities. It also would order the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management to cancel a moratorium on federal coal leasing.

The other order will instruct the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to revamp the 2015 Waters of the United States rule that applies to 60 percent of the water bodies in the country. That regulation – which was issued under the 1972 Clean Water Act – gives the federal government authority over wetlands, rivers and streams as well as major water bodies, according to *The Post*.

Pruitt didn't go into any details of the administration's planned policy shift. Instead, he outlined the principles that will guide his tenure at the EPA, such as altering the regulatory process, adhering more closely to congressional mandates and deferring more to the states in enforcing environmental laws and regulations.

"Regulations ought to make things regular," Pruitt said. "Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what's expected of them, so they can plan, and allocate resources to comply."

E&E News

http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2017/02/21/stories/1060050376

'He didn't allay people's fears today' – union leader

By Kevin Bogardus 2/21/17

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt left unanswered questions for career employees today in his first speech as agency chief.

Pruitt made a plea for civility and touted his beliefs in the rule of law and states' rights, but he failed to offer details on the Trump administration's plans for the agency, leaving EPA staff anxious about what comes next.

Joe Edgell, senior vice president for National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 280, told E&E News that he noticed what Pruitt didn't say in his speech.

"He didn't say we're not going to shrink the agency. He didn't say we're not going to fire people," Edgell said. "He didn't allay people's fears today."

NTEU Chapter 280 represents EPA professional employees who work out of the Washington headquarters.

"We were encouraged that he wanted to talk to and listen before making decisions," Edgell said. "Taking him at his word, we were encouraged by that."

Some EPA staffers were more sanguine in response to Pruitt's speech.

"There was no talk about executive orders or anything else," one longtime employee said. "What you saw is what you got. We will have to see what happens from here."

John O'Grady, president of American Federation of Government Employees Council 238, which represents thousands of EPA employees, said he appreciated Pruitt's offer of civility. But he noted that Pruitt's focus on the power of states when it comes to protecting the environment might not be doable, considering the scarce resources available for regulators outside the federal government.

"Federalism is one that stuck out like a sore thumb," O'Grady said. "If we pushed environmental protection, environmental enforcement to the states, how are they going to get it done?"

O'Grady said he expects big changes at the agency during Pruitt's tenure.

"I say nothing is off the table, just because they didn't address it in this speech," O'Grady said. "They are definitely going to go after shrinking the federal workforce, going to go after EPA and going to go after federal unions. There is no question about that."

Pruitt spoke in the Rachel Carson Green Room at EPA's headquarters (*Greenwire*, Feb. 21).

Members of the administration's "beachhead" team, including Don Benton, the agency's senior White House adviser, were spotted milling around before Pruitt came to the podium. Another team member, David Schnare, sat between acting Deputy Administrator Mike Flynn and Catherine McCabe, formerly the acting chief, off to Pruitt's left during the speech.

EPA employees were invited to attend Pruitt's speech and were asked to RSVP to reserve their seat, according to an agencywide email — subject line: "Meet Administrator Pruitt" — obtained by E&E News. They could also watch the EPA chief's speech online or listen over the phone.

Pruitt echoed many of his thoughts already shared during his confirmation hearing and a recent *Wall Street Journal* interview, including that the agency can be pro-energy and pro-environment. In his speech, Pruitt quoted John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, which led to a fierce response from Michael Brune, the group's executive director.

"John Muir is rolling over in his grave at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA," Brune said in a statement.

Pruitt comes to EPA during a tumultuous time.

President Trump had harsh words for EPA on the campaign trail, saying he wanted to roll back many of its regulations and pare down the agency. The nomination of Pruitt, a vocal EPA critic who sued the agency over several of those rules as Oklahoma attorney general, only seemed to intensify environmental opposition to Trump and his administration.

Pruitt underwent a lengthy confirmation process that ended Friday as the Senate approved him on a mostly party-line vote of 52-46. Pruitt was confirmed by the Senate with the most recorded "no" votes of any EPA administrator in the history of the agency, according to an E&E News review of congressional records.

Now as administrator, Pruitt said it was time for "a beginning" as he and agency staff get to know each other at EPA.

"In fact, you don't know me hardly at all other than what you've read in the newspaper and seen on the news," Pruitt said.

He added, "I look forward to sharing the rest of the story with you as we spend time together. This is a beginning. It's a beginning for us to spend time and discuss certain principles by which I think this agency should conduct itself."

Fox News

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/02/21/epas-pruitt-urges-officials-to-avoid-regulatory-abuses-in-first-speech-to-staff.html

EPA's Pruitt urges officials to avoid regulatory 'abuses' in first speech to staff

By Barnini Chakraborty 2/21/17

The new head of the EPA set a decidedly more pro-business tone for the agency Tuesday during his first remarks to rank-and-file employees, promoting a balance between protecting the environment and the economy -- and warning officials to "avoid" regulatory "abuses."

"We as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs and we can be pro-environment, and we don't have to choose between the two," newly confirmed Administrator Scott Pruitt told a group of Environmental Protection Agency employees.

Pruitt's address follows a heated confirmation process where more than 800 former and current staff members actively campaigned against him. Pruitt, as Oklahoma's attorney general, fought the EPA in court and accused the agency of routinely over-regulating businesses. He vowed that as the agency's new leader, he would work to scale back its authority

"Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what's expected of them, so that they can plan and allocate resources to comply," he told the crowd.

Tensions with staff, however, could remain high as Pruitt takes over.

In addition to the letter signed by hundreds of employees asking senators to pull their support of Pruitt, more than two-dozen current EPA staff joined a protest set up by the Sierra Club in Chicago against him. The strong internal opposition could mean a standoff down the line

between career EPA employees and the man leading them.

Pruitt was narrowly confirmed to head up the agency last week after a lengthy floor debate in the Senate. Democrats blasted him for vowing to roll back Obama-era environmental regulations as well as his past statements challenging the science behind climate change. Republicans countered that Pruitt was the right man to scale back the size and reach of the EPA.

Slapping restraints on the EPA could come sooner rather than later.

On Tuesday, The Washington Post reported that President Trump could head to EPA headquarters this week to sign a pair of executive orders.

One order would instruct the Department of the Interior to lift a ban on new coal mining leases on federal land and instruct the EPA to rewrite a 2015 regulation that limits greenhouse-gas emissions from existing electric utilities.

The second order reportedly would instruct the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to make significant changes to the Waters of the United States rule which gives the federal government authority over rivers, streams and wetlands. The regulation, issued under the 1972 Clean Water Act, applies to 60 percent of the water bodies in the United States.

As Oklahoma's attorney general, Pruitt was party to lawsuits for both the Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the United States rule. In all, Pruitt sued the EPA 14 times before becoming its administrator.

Pruitt faced additional questions during the confirmation process that extended beyond his history fighting the agency.

On the eve of his confirmation vote, Pruitt was ordered by an Oklahoma judge to hand over thousands of emails between his office and fossil fuel companies like Koch Industries and the National Coal Council to the Center for Media and Democracy, which requested the collection of emails in 2014.

Pruitt and the Oklahoma attorney general's office are accused of ignoring multiple open records requests. Oklahoma County District Judge Aletia Haynes Timmons said "there was an abject failure to provide prompt and reasonable access to documents requested."

So far, only 411 of the more than 3,000 emails CMD requested have been handed over. The 411 were turned over last week. The open records request was made two years ago.

Despite being ordered to turn over the emails, Pruitt and his former office can withhold those they deem exempt under the state's records law.

InsideEPA

https://insideepa.com/daily-news/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-details-priorities-principles

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Details Priorities, Principles

2/21/17

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, sworn in Feb. 17 shortly after his Senate confirmation, has begun to detail some of his priorities and principles for his time in office.

During a Feb. 21 address to agency employees, Pruitt largely reiterated the principles he outlined during his Senate confirmation for how he plans to approach his new role, including considering the role of states, the need for acting with civility on contentious matters, finding solutions to difficult problems and more.

For example, he said that the agency needs to follow a set procedure when developing rules to provide certainty to industry. "Regulations ought to make things regular," Pruitt said. "They ought to give certainty to those we regulate. They ought to know what is expected of them so they can plan and allocate resources to comply."

He said he would seek to "avoid abuses" of those processes. That means ending "using the guidance process to do rulemaking or regulation through litigation."

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* published Feb. 18, Pruitt added that a lack of regulatory certainty undermines economic growth. "The greatest threat we've had to economic growth has been that those in industry don't know what is expected of them. Rules come that are outside of statutes. Rules get changed midway. It creates vast uncertainty and paralysis, and re-establishing a vigorous commitment to rule of law is going to help a lot."

During his address at EPA, Pruitt also emphasized his commitment to work with states. "Federalism matters," he said. "Congress has been prescriptive, in many instances, in providing a robust role with the states."

He said he talked with Catherine McCabe, who served as EPA's acting administrator pending his

confirmation, about the regional offices and “how important they are in partnering with [departments of environmental quality] at the state level with respect to enforcement and other related issues.

“We engender the trust of those at the state level, they see us as partners in the mission and not as adversaries. Process is important.”

In his interview with the *Journal*, Pruitt also criticized the Obama administration for preempting state efforts to comply with federal requirements and suggested maintaining the portion of EPA's $8 billion budget that is directed to states, which is about half. “This is the front line of a lot of the work on air and water quality and infrastructure and it is very important that money continue,” he said.

Policy Priorities

He also told the *Journal* that he plans to make cleaning up Superfund sites, attaining air quality standards and improving water infrastructure as his top priorities. “Under current measurements, some 40 [percent] of the country is still in nonattainment” for criteria pollutants, he said, adding there are also “1,300 Superfund sites and some of them have been on the list for more than three decades.”

In a similar vein, he suggested that he hopes to complete cleanups of the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington state and the Hudson River in New York. “Think of how tangible it would be to the citizens,” of those states, he said.

On water infrastructure, Pruitt said he plans to advance the issue with the president. “When we talk about investing in infrastructure, we need to look more broadly than bridges and roads,” he said, citing lead contamination in Flint, MI, and threats to California dams.

But even as he detailed an affirmative agenda, Pruitt also defended Trump administration plans to roll back the Obama administration's greenhouse gas rules for power plants and Clean Water Act jurisdiction rule, saying both measures should be withdrawn because “the courts have seriously called into question the legality of those rules.”

He also suggested taking a broader review of whether EPA should be regulating GHGs at all. Part of the rulemaking process to withdraw the Clean Power Plan will consider whether EPA even possesses the tools, under the Clean Air Act, to address climate change.

"It's a fair question to ask if we do, or whether there in fact needs to be a congressional response to the climate issue," he said.

But he also downplayed suggestions that he would neuter the agency. "There is no reason why EPA's role should ebb or flow based on a particular administration, or a particular administrator," he said. "Agencies exist to administer the law. Congress passes statutes, and those statutes are very clear on the job EPA has to do. We're going to do that job.

"There is a time and place to sometimes resolve litigation. . . . But don't use the judicial process to bypass accountability," Pruitt said, suggesting he would not use sue-and-settle tactics now that a move conservative administration will have to defend its policies: "regulation through litigation is simply wrong...we need to end this practice of issuing guidance, to get around the rule-making procedure. Or rushing things through, playing games on the timing."

Wall Street Journal

https://www.wsj.com/articles/scott-pruitt-signals-dramatic-shift-in-epa-priorities-1487708036

Scott Pruitt Signals Dramatic Shift in EPA Priorities

By Amy Harder 2/21/17, 3:13PM

WASHINGTON—In his first speech as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt stressed a dramatic change of priorities at the agency, stating the importance of the agency's communication and relationship with businesses but giving few details about policy changes.

Mr. Pruitt didn't touch on the hard-fought issues that arose during his confirmation process, including his work as Oklahoma attorney general suing the EPA and comments President Donald Trump has made about nearly eliminating the agency.

The new administrator focused instead on his general aspirations for the agency, such as giving

businesses certainty regarding environmental rules and striking an appropriate balance with states when it comes to regulations.

"Regulations ought to make things regular," said Mr. Pruitt, repeating a line he used at his confirmation hearing in January. "Those that we regulate ought to know what they can expect from us."

That is a clear difference in message and focus from the EPA under President Barack Obama, which emphasized first what the agency was trying to protect with its regulations on clean air and water.

Mr. Pruitt's speech at agency headquarters, which went a little over 10 minutes, was aimed at striking a balance between the administrator's mandate from Mr. Trump to roll back Mr. Obama's environmental regulations and persistent concerns from inside and outside the agency about that very mandate. It didn't include questions from either media or the assembled EPA staffers in Washington. EPA employs about 15,000 people across the U.S.; thousands were able to watch the speech online.

"You can't lead unless you listen. I seek to listen and learn and lead with you to address these issues we face as a nation," Mr. Pruitt said.

Mr. Trump's plans for EPA have attracted particular attention, given his stated goal of making wholesale changes at the agency. Current and former officials of the agency had publicly urged the defeat of Mr. Pruitt, saying they were concerned about his close relations with the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma. The Senate narrowly confirmed him on Friday mostly along party lines.

Mr. Pruitt's comments Tuesday didn't ease some critics' concerns.

"Pruitt told EPA staff they may not know him except for what they have read, but perception is reality," said Liz Purchia, a former EPA communications director under Mr. Obama. "Trump's team spent the entire campaign and the last few months railing against EPA's existence, its staff and its purpose."

Mr. Pruitt didn't mention the Trump administration's imminent plans to start undoing two of the biggest rules the agency has issued over the past eight years: one cutting carbon emissions from power plants and another bringing more waters under federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Trump is expected to soon sign at least two executive orders to begin the process of scrapping both of those regulations, along with other Obama-era climate regulations, according to several people familiar with the plans. Both efforts would take months and are likely to face legal challenges.

The executive order focusing on power-plant emissions is expected to be framed as an attempt to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy while promoting domestic energy production, two of Mr. Trump's campaign promises. Supporters of the regulation say it is important for fighting climate change.

Other policies likely to be targeted in the executive orders is an Interior Department temporary

ban on coal leasing and a measure cutting emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas, from oil and natural gas wells on federal lands. Congress is already in the process of repealing that regulation.

Buzzfeed News

https://www.buzzfeed.com/dinograndoni/trumps-new-epa-chief-promises-to-pull-back-environment-rules?utm_term=.qxRlB2DjB#.frne7Xva7

Trump's New EPA Chief Promises to Pull Back Environment Rules in First Agency Speech

By Dino Grandoni 2/21/17, 1:50PM

WASHINGTON — In a brief introductory speech at the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters on Tuesday, the agency's new leader, Scott Pruitt, sought to reassure leery staff of his vision for federal environmental protection under Donald Trump — one that involved the agency becoming both "pro-energy and jobs and pro-environment."

"Most of you don't know me very well," Pruitt told roughly 100 employees gathered at EPA headquarters on Tuesday, along with thousands more watching in Washington and at regional EPA offices though the agency's internal television network.

Noting past news stories of his environmental views that have not put him in a flattering light, Pruitt added: "I look forward to sharing the rest of the story with you."

During his 12 minutes of remarks, Pruitt made clear that he wished to cede responsibility for environmental protection back to the states and limit the role of the EPA strictly to what Congress has instructed it to do, saying that regulations must be "need to be tethered to statue."

"When we do that," Pruitt told employees, "we avoid he uncertainty of litigation."

Pruitt knows about litigation against the EPA: As Oklahoma's attorney general, he led more than dozen lawsuits against the EPA on that state's behalf. During his confirmation hearing, Pruitt refused to recuse himself from the eight ongoing lawsuits Oklahoma has filed against the EPA.

Still, the Trump administration does not want to wait for Congress to act. This week, the White House is readying executive actions seeking to undo Obama-era rules meant to curtail water pollution and the release of greenhouse gases, the *Washington Post* reported

Going into more detail than he did during his speech, Pruitt told the *The Wall Street Journal* in his first interview as EPA administrator that he expects to quickly withdraw the US from Clean Power Plan, Obama's landmark proposal for curbing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

"There's a very simple reason why this needs to happen," Pruitt said. "Because the courts have seriously called into question the legality of those rules."

But the Supreme Court, in 2007, has already ruled that EPA is obligated to regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Pruitt delivered his remarks in the agency's ornate Rachel L. Carson Great Hall, named after the scientist who authored the 1962 book *Silent Spring,* which kickstarted the US environmental movement and ultimately led to the creation of the EPA eight years later.

Behind the cameras were security personnel from the Department of Homeland Security — whose presence at the headquarters, according to two EPA employees, was a first for the agency. Pruitt is expected to ask for an around-the-clock security detail as administrator, according to E&E News.

At the end of his speech, Pruitt quoted another famous environmentalist — John Muir, the 19th century activist and founder of the Sierra Club — as a way to reassure employees that his business-friendly approach is compatible with the agency's goal of environmental protection.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread," Pruitt said, quoting Muir.

The current head of the Sierra Club, Michael Brune, objected to the name drop.

"John Muir is rolling over in his grave," Brune said in a statement after the speech, "at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA."

Mashable

http://mashable.com/2017/02/21/scott-pruitt-speech-epa-climate-resistance/#oslu2pflKqqA

EPA's Scott Pruitt meets his hasrshest critics: the employees of his own agency

By Andrew Freedman 2/21/17

Usually, new administrators at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are welcomed at headquarters without too much fanfare. That is, until today.

Scott Pruitt — the new EPA administrator nominated to the position by President Donald Trump — gave his welcome address to his agency Tuesday after garnering more "no" votes on the Senate floor than any other EPA nominee since the agency was founded in 1970.

In taking on the job, Pruitt is facing a daunting challenge: stiff resistance from within the agency itself, with current and former employees having protested his nomination, with some taking the nearly unheard of step of openly advocating for senators to vote "no" when it was brought to the Senate floor.

For some scientists in the agency, his first speech was probably the equivalent of Voldemort himself walking into Hogwarts and assuming the top job.

Pruitt openly doubts mainstream climate science findings, including that human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases are the primary cause of global temperature increases.

Pruitt was confirmed only hours after a judge in Oklahoma ordered the release of nearly 3,000 emails between Pruitt and fossil fuel companies from his time as attorney general. Those emails are due to be released by the end of the day on Tuesday.

In his first speech to agency employees on Tuesday, Pruitt spoke of federal environmental regulations as needing to be tailored for the benefit of regulated parties, rather than to protect the public.

“Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulations exist to give certainty to the regulated,” he said.

Pruitt clearly aims to shrink the agency's mandate and footprint, and is expected to quickly move to reverse the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which regulates global warming-pollutants emitted from coal-fired power plants, along with a landmark water pollution regulation.

As Oklahoma attorney general, Pruitt sued the EPA more than a dozen times, including in opposition to the Clean Power Plan.

"Regulations exist to give certainty to the regulated"

Pruitt did little to antagonize the EPA rank and file in his speech, saying, "civility is something that I believe in very much." But he also didn't say much that would immediately quell the internal resistance to him, either.

“This environment in which we live today, forgive the reference, but it is a very toxic environment,” he said. “I seek to be a good listener.”

Pruitt even went so far as quoting famous naturalist John Muir, who founded the Sierra Club, in his comments.

In response, the Sierra Club put out this blistering statement: "John Muir is rolling over in his grave at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA."

A lot is at stake if and when Pruitt and the Trump administration move to dismantle the Clean Power Plan. The Obama administration had turned to the EPA to lead the charge on global warming, and without other rules to drive down emissions, getting rid of the Clean Power Plan would jeopardize America's ability to meet the emissions targets it agreed to under the Paris Climate Agreement.

Pruitt did not mention climate change, or any other specific environmental challenge, in his speech, instead giving general nods to the need to return more of a role for environmental protection to the states.

“We can be both pro-energy and jobs and pro-environment,” he said.

Business Insider

http://www.businessinsider.com/scott-pruitt-epa-first-day-speech-2017-2

Trump's new EPA chief barely mentioned the environment in his first address to agency

By Rafi Letzter 2/21/17

Scott Pruitt, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) critic who recently took over the agency as part of the Trump administration, gave his first address in his new position Tuesday.

The former Oklahoma Attorney General mentioned "important, monumental issues with respect to our future and our environment," but avoided a number of issues central to the EPA's mission — such as air and water protection, cleanups, public health, and environmental monitoring.

Pruitt, who sued the EPA 14 times in his previous role to fight regulations and cleanup efforts, instead emphasized "abuses" of the agency's rule-making powers.

He called on employees to take a stricter, more limited interpretation of the agency's powers.

"The process we engage in adopting regulations is important, because it shows we take our role seriously," he said, returning to a theme he emphasized during his confirmation hearings.

"Regulations ought to make things regular ... that's the job of a regulator," Pruitt said.

This is the same phrase Pruitt used during his confirmation hearings, during which he suggested that the EPA had failed in its responsibility to create a predictable economic climate for business.

Kimberley Strassel of The Wall Street Journal wrote Friday that Pruitt's passion seems to be neither environmental safety nor deregulation. Rather, she suggested, he seems like a kind of "EPA originalist," who aims to link the EPA to the tightest possible interpretation of its several congressional mandates.

Pruitt has become the nation's top environmental officer without staking out a clear position on several key environmental issues — including whether greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide should be regulated as pollutants. Nothing in Tuesday's talk cleared up any of his environmental views.

The transition at the EPA before Pruitt's arrival was particularly fraught, with reports of leaks, gag orders, and grant freezes creating uncertainty for people who follow environmental policy or rely on on the EPA for funding.

Pruitt's confirmation was particularly contentious. There were questions about his truth-telling during his hearings and Senate Democrats fought until the last minute to delay a vote until undisclosed emails between Pruitt's Oklahoma office and fossil fuel companies were released by court order.

In what may have been a nod to some of those issues, Pruitt told his new workforce on Tuesday to wait on the "rest of the story" about him, beyond what they might have seen in the press.

He also decried the "toxic environment" in American politics and called for "civility."

"I seek to be a good listener," he said, "You can't lead unless you listen."

Argus Media

http://www.argusmedia.com/news/article/?id=1409088

New EPA leader stresses federalism, agency limits

2/21/17

Washington, 21 February (Argus) — US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Scott Pruitt today signaled a more restrained regulatory posture from the agency, with an increased role for states and a greater recognition of limits on federal authority.

EPA needs to do a better job of providing certainty to regulated industries and must become more cooperative with the state agencies that are often tasked with implementing federal environmental regulations, Pruitt said in brief remarks to agency staff.

Pruitt stressed the need to provide more regulatory certainty by taking a number of steps, including being more transparent in rule-making processes and honoring limits on the authority Congress has given the agency, he said.

"The only authority that any agency has in the executive branch is the authority given to it by Congress," Pruitt said.

When EPA does not heed those limits, it can lead to litigation and more regulatory uncertainty, he said.

In addition, Pruitt said he wants to improve EPA's relations with the states so that they do not view federal regulators as adversaries. "Federalism matters. Congress has been very prescriptive in providing in many instances a very robust role, an important role, for the states," he said.

President Donald Trump chose Pruitt to lead EPA in an effort to reshape an agency that some Republicans say has overstepped its authority from Congress and has published regulations that are impeding economic development. As attorney general for Oklahoma, Pruitt was involved in a number of efforts to overturn EPA regulations issued by former president Barack Obama's administration, including multi-state lawsuits against the Clean Power Plan to reduce CO2 emissions from power plants, mercury regulations and federal ozone air quality standards.

Many of those regulations will likely be targeted for rollbacks or repeals by Pruitt, whom Trump picked for the job in part because of his opposition to Obama's so-called "war on coal."

The Senate confirmed Pruitt last week by a 52-46 vote, largely along party lines. Senate

Democrats had attempted to delay a vote after a judge ruled that the nominee had to hand over thousands of pages of documents related to his correspondence with the fossil fuel industry while attorney general. Pruitt is required to turn over approximately 3,000 documents by today, with more to come before the end of the month.

Despite his hostility to some EPA actions, Pruitt said he is committed to the agency's role in protecting the nation's air and water. "I seek to listen, learn and lead with you," he said.

Bloomberg

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-02-21/trump-s-new-epa-head-woos-skeptical-staff-with-a-new-mission

EPA Chief Woos Staff Skeptical of Tilt to Pro-Energy Mission

By Jennifer A Dlouhy 2/21/17, 1:04PM

President Donald Trump's newly installed environmental chief Scott Pruitt laid out his vision for reshaping the way the federal government safeguards air and water, as he tried to convince skeptical federal employees that a refashioned agency can remain effective.

Pruitt addressed the Environmental Protection Agency's workforce -- including hundreds who had actively battled his confirmation -- on Tuesday, in his first speech since he was sworn in as administrator Friday.

"We as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs and we can be pro-environment, and we don't have to choose between the two," Pruitt said to employees packed inside an auditorium at the EPA's Washington headquarters. His remarks were also streamed to EPA's 15,000-strong workforce nationwide.

Pruitt decried a deeply politicized environment that he said creates obstacles to finding effective solutions. "We deal with very important, monumental issues with respect to our future," he said. "We can do better as a country."

Perhaps more than any other member of Trump's cabinet, Pruitt is at odds with the agency he now leads. He built his political career fighting federal regulations he said stripped power away from states, and as Oklahoma attorney general, joined more than a dozen lawsuits challenging EPA actions by the Obama administration. He also appeared to relish his role as the agency's chief antagonist; an online biography dubbed Pruitt "a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda."

Still, Pruitt has taken pains to emphasize that environmental regulation and economic development can go hand in hand.

In a nearly 12-minute speech that avoided addressing substantive details of EPA policy, Pruitt outlined a "cooperative federalism" approach that gives states a larger role in collaborating with the EPA on environmental matters. Pruitt said he wanted to engender trust among state regulators and carefully follow congressional dictates to write new federal rules that are tethered to the statutes that compel them.

"We need to be open and transparent and objective in how we do rulemaking and make sure we follow the letter of the law as we do so because that would send, I think, a great message to those who are regulated," Pruitt said. "They want to know what's expected of them."

Pruitt sought to soothe unease among the agency's rank and file, with remarks that were measured and focused on process -- far from the bombastic declarations about slashing EPA staff and overhauling its use of science made by former Trump advisers.

Now Pruitt is trying to convince EPA employees that by focusing on core functions, the agency can do a better job keeping pollution out of the air and cleaning toxic chemicals from old industrial sites.

As administrator, Pruitt is positioned to undo some of the same agency regulations he challenged in court, including the Clean Power Plan that slashes greenhouse gas emissions from electricity and the Waters of the U.S. rule that defined which waterways are subject to pollution regulation. Trump administration officials have drafted documents directing Pruitt to begin dismantling those measures, helping fulfill Trump's pledge to eviscerate rules the president has said throttle U.S. energy development.

Some conservatives also are pressing Pruitt to go further and undo the legal underpinning for many Obama-era environmental rules by questioning the scientific basis for them.

Pruitt's efforts will face internal opposition from an agency that made combating climate change its top priority over the past few years.

Scores of EPA scientists, experts and lawyers actively fought Pruitt's nomination, beseeching senators to vote against him and organizing opposition via social media. The union representing agency employees launched an online campaign against Pruitt's agenda under the headline, "Save the EPA." Nearly 800 former EPA officials also signed a letter opposing Pruitt's nomination.

If Pruitt asks the agency's career civil servants to make 180-degree pivots on policy, he may have a hard time getting them to go along, said Kevin Book, managing director of the Washington-based research firm ClearView Energy Partners. It may take years for frustrated civil servants to walk out the door of an agency for good, but in the meantime, they can walk much slower inside it, Book said in an interview.

"You don't get an environmental scientist going to work at the EPA for the privilege of helping to drill more wells," Book said. "They're bound by all of the professional responsibilities and limitations that are imposed by their employer, but they are a force to be reckoned with."

Signs of that resistance have already appeared, with current and former employees setting up Twitter accounts to highlight perceived abuses.

Many agency employees are veterans of presidential transitions and know their fealty is to U.S. law, said Jeff Holmstead, a top EPA official under former President George W. Bush.

"There is a minority -- and I really do think it's a relatively small number -- of people at EPA who

believe their mission is more important than their obligation to the law," Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell LLP, said. That opposition can feed leaks to Congress, the press and the public, he said.

Pruitt spoke Tuesday in the Rachel Carson Green Room, named for a noted marine biologist whose work highlighting the dangers of widespread pesticide use helped drive a global environmental movement.

"You can't lead, unless you listen," Pruitt said, promising to do just that as administrator.

The Hill

http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/320479-new-epa-head-wants-agency-to-be-pro-energy-and-jobs-and-pro

New EPA head: 'We don't have to choose between' jobs and the environment

By Timothy Cama 2/21/17, 1:32PM

The Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief outlined a vision for the agency that places an added focus on economic and job growth.

Scott Pruitt used his first speech to the EPA's 15,000 employees to speak mostly in general terms about his plans for an agency that had been a central target of Republican ire during former President Barack Obama's time in office.

"I believe that we as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs, and pro-environment, that we don't have to choose between the two," Pruitt said in the 11-minute speech from EPA's headquarters.

"I think our nation has been better than any nation in the world at making sure that we do the job of protecting our natural resources and protecting our environment, while also respecting the economic growth and jobs our nation seeks to have," he said.

Pruitt comes into office with an uneasy relationship to the EPA's workforce, most of whom work outside of Washington, D.C.

Employees have publicly protested against Pruitt in places like Chicago and undertook an unprecedented effort to lobby the Senate to reject his nomination.

Pruitt, who was Oklahoma's attorney general until the Senate confirmed him Friday by a vote of 52-46, is a staunch opponent of Obama EPA regulations like the Clean Power Plan and the Clean Water Rule, which were among the targets of the 14 lawsuits he filed against the agency.

The Trump administration is reportedly preparing as soon as this week to sign executive orders to begin undoing both of those regulations.

But instead of laying out specific plans for those rules and others, Pruitt outlined the principles he wants to guide his time at the EPA, like changing the regulatory process, sticking more closely to mandates from Congress and better respecting states, all of which he implied were not done to a high enough degree under Obama.

Among his goals, he said, is to prioritize "certainty" in regulations.

“Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what’s expected of them, so they can plan, and allocate resources to comply,” Pruitt said. “That’s really the job of a regulator.”

He said the regulatory process “needs to be tethered to the statute” and the EPA should “ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level” to be seen as partners with the states, not adversaries.

While Pruitt did not directly confront the opposition to him among the EPA workforce, he called for the agency’s employees to be civil and listen to one another.

“Civility is something that I believe in very much. We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through some very difficult issues, and do so in a very civil manner,” he said.

Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/02/21/pruitt-to-epa-employees-we-dont-have-to-choose-between-jobs-and-the-environment/?utm_term=.8cc027848664

Pruitt to EPA employees: ‘We don’t have to choose’ between jobs and the environment’

By Brady Dennis and Chris Mooney 2/21/17, 1:35PM

In his first full work day as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt made clear Monday that he intends to step back from what he sees as the agency’s regulatory overreach during the Obama administration.

Pruitt, who spent years criticizing and suing the EPA before becoming its newest leader, reiterated an argument he often had made as Oklahoma attorney general.

“The only authority that any agency has in the executive branch is the authority given to it by Congress,” he said during a noon address to employees at the agency headquarters. “We need to respect that. We need to follow that. Because when we do that, guess what happens? We avoid litigation. We avoid the uncertainty of litigation and we reach better ends and outcomes at the end of the day.”

Pruitt himself was the source of some of that legal conflict in recent years, suing the agency more than a dozen times over the course of President Barack Obama's two terms. And those lawsuits, plus his vocal criticism of the EPA's work generally and skepticism about climate change, have triggered palpable concerns among many longtime agency employees.

In many ways, though, the new administrator's remarks before his staff were conciliatory. Pruitt said he had come to listen to them and outlined principles for how he planned to guide the agency, including emphasizing civility and respect for the role of states.

"In this environment we live in this country today … it's a very toxic environment," Pruitt said. "We have jerseys that we put on both politically and otherwise. And that's something, I think, is damaging to finding results and answers."

Pruitt was confirmed Friday afternoon, mostly along partisan lines in the Senate, after a process that featured much criticism of his statements about climate change, his relationships with the fossil-fuel industry and his history of litigation against the agency he's now leading. Two Democrats in the Senate, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, voted for him. One Republican, Susan Collins of Maine, voted against him.

While Republican lawmakers and industry executives welcomed his nomination, it was met with unprecedented opposition from environmental groups and from hundreds of former and current EPA employees, who argued that his track record shows little regard for environmental protection.

Pruitt's remarks were delivered in the Rachel Carson Green Room at the EPA, a large and dramatic wood-paneled room named after the famed environmentalist whose 1962 book, "Silent Spring," helped galvanize a movement that eventually led to the EPA's founding. About 75 EPA employees were on hand — attendance at the event was optional, and staff could also listen or watch online — along with members of the Trump administration and dozens of reporters.

News reports have suggested that President Trump is on the verge of signing a number of executive orders to roll back Obama priorities on the environment, including the Clean Power Plan, which restricts greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, and the Waters of the U.S. regulation. But Pruitt made no explicit mention of planned policy changes in his remarks, instead focusing on what he said were a set of principles by which he would guide the agency.

Pruitt was introduced at the event by Catherine McCabe, who had served as acting administrator until his confirmation. Her remarks about his background did not mention the many occasions when he, as Oklahoma attorney general, had filed lawsuits against the agency.

"Civility is something I believe in very much," Pruitt told the employees gathered. "We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through some difficult issues and do so in a civil manner." He also noted that the "process" and "rule of law" matter greatly at the EPA. By contrast, he did not talk much about the agency's actual goals, such as preserving clean air and clean water.

"Federalism matters," Pruitt continued, pledging to forge close relationships with the states as he carries out his role. But states are likely to be highly divided over any attempt to undo Obama environmental regulations, with states such as Massachusetts, New York and California likely to oppose such efforts through state-level lawsuits much like the ones that Pruitt himself

participated in against Obama's EPA.

At one point, Pruitt actually quoted John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club — which provoked a quick response from the environmental group's executive director, Michael Brune, that "John Muir is rolling over in his grave at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA."

Pruitt also said that there shouldn't be a contradiction between environmental protection and energy production or job creation, a line also often emphasized by President George W. Bush's administration.

"We as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs and pro-environment," Pruitt said. "That we don't have to choose between the two. I think our nation has done better than any nation in the world at making sure we do the job of protecting our natural resources and protecting our environment while also respecting the economic growth and jobs our nation seeks to have."

Overall, the comments were very much in line both with what Pruitt said during his confirmation hearing and the arguments he has made for years during his opposition to EPA regulations under the Obama administration. He has been a leading proponent of the notion that the EPA too often overstepped its legal authority, going beyond the language of the statutes passed by Congress to take aggressive regulatory action. In addition, Pruitt has argued that the agency often infringed on the rights of states to regulate within their own borders.

Pruitt's remarks came shortly before the possible release by the Oklahoma attorney general's office of thousands of his emails from his tenure there, as ordered by a judge on Thursday. The office has not said whether it will comply or appeal.

After introducing him, McCabe gave Pruitt an EPA lapel pin and an EPA hat. The new leader, a former partner of a Triple-A baseball team, said he would wear the latter when going to Washington Nationals games.

Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/pruitt-epa-speech_us_58ac7e76e4b0c4d51057164f

Scott Pruitt Goes After Critics, His Own Staff In First Speech To EPA

By Alexander C. Kaufman 2/21/17, 1:44PM

Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt mentioned a "toxic environment" just once during his first address Tuesday to the embattled agency staff.

But he wasn't talking about industry pollution or conserving nature. He was referring to his critics' political rhetoric.

"Forgive the reference, but it's a very toxic environment," the controversial new administrator said in the speech, which lasted under 20 minutes.

"Civility is something I believe in very much," he added. "We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through some issues in a civil manner."

Then, at last, he began to outline his vision for the EPA. He described an agency that prioritized making it easier for polluters to comply with regulations. He promised to listen intently to companies before saddling them with new regulations. He admonished his new employees, some fearing layoffs amid looming budget cuts, for acting outside the agency's legal mandate and running roughshod over states' rights.

"Regulations ought to make things regular," Pruitt said. "Regulations exist to give certainty to those they regulate. Those we regulate ought to know what's expected of them so they can place and allocate resources to comply."

He did not mention climate change or environmental destruction.

Pruitt, the former attorney general of Oklahoma, was sworn in last Friday after the Senate voted 52-46 to confirm his nomination. His confirmation came a day after Judge Aletia Haynes Timmons of the District Court of Oklahoma County ruled that the Oklahoma attorney general's office must turn over more than 2,500 emails and correspondence between Pruitt and oil and gas firms. The ruling was in response to a lawsuit from watchdog group Center for Media and Democracy and the American Civil Liberties Union alleging that his office had violated Oklahoma's open records law.

"Scott Pruitt's going to have a lot of questions to answer," said Nick Surgey, the director of research at the Madison, Wisconsin-based Center for Media and Democracy, referring to the emails. "The head of the Environmental Protection Agency, on day three, is already talking about putting the interests of the environment against the interests of industry."

Democrats had sought to delay a vote on his confirmation until after those documents were released. Pruitt's former office is expected to respond by the judge's Tuesday evening deadline.

Pruitt made his reputation suing the EPA 13 times, repeatedly joining oil, gas and coal players — including Oklahoma Gas & Electric and the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance, an industry-backed group — in filing lawsuits to halt regulations. He forged what The New York Times in 2014 called an "unprecedented, secretive alliance" between Republican attorneys general and oil and gas companies to undermine environmental regulations. In 2011, he allowed Devon Energy, an Oklahoma oil and gas firm, to write a three-page complaint to the EPA under his letterhead, which he signed. Pruitt also championed the rights of Exxon Mobil Corp. in investigations into whether the oil giant committed fraud by covering up evidence that burning fossil fuels changes the climate.

In turn, the fossil fuel industry donated more than $300,000 to Pruitt between 2002 and 2016, and even more money to a political action committee and a super PAC that paid for the former Oklahoma attorney general's trips to Hawaii and New Orleans.

"I believe we as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs and pro-environment," Pruitt said Tuesday, regurgitating a line he used during his confirmation hearing last month. "We don't have to choose between the two."

Pruitt's contentious confirmation drew scorn from a variety of critics. He even plans to request

an around-the-clock bodyguard from his agency, according to a report by E&E News. A senior energy official at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the country's largest trade group with a history of combatting environmental rules, warned the new administration against repealing a 2009 EPA endangerment finding that classified greenhouse gases as a threat to public health and welfare. The comment underscores growing acceptance of the science of man-made global warming, particularly given that the Chamber's official policy priorities for 2017 "oppose EPA efforts to regulate greenhouse gases under the existing Clean Air Act, including the endangerment finding."

"There's going to be hell to pay from, you know, soccer moms and soccer dads all throughout the country," Christopher Guith, the energy official, said last month, according to a transcript published by the nonprofit Energy and Policy Institute. "People who probably voted for Donald Trump."

President Donald Trump has made slashing environmental restrictions a top priority, and the EPA is a prime target of his regulatory bushwhacking. He tapped Myron Ebell, a once-fringe contrarian who peddles conspiracy theories about climate change, to lead the EPA transition team. Soon after the inauguration, the White House ordered the EPA to freeze grants, putting a vast array of projects and personnel in limbo. That freeze has been lifted, but the White House is considering gutting the EPA's budget, which makes up just 0.22 percent of federal spending. A policy memo leaked to Axios proposed deep cuts to the EPA's budget, including axing hundreds of millions from grants to states and Native American tribes, climate programs, and environmental programs and management.

Trump's transition team also instructed agency employees to halt all press releases, social media, blog posts and external speaking engagements — giving rise to rogue Twitter accounts claiming to represent the views of the silenced regulators. The team announced plans to review all EPA studies before publication, stoking fears that the new administration might stifle research on issues such as climate change.

Inside EPA reported earlier this month that Trump is weighing closing the agency's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, which handles both civil and criminal enforcement of the country's core environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The move would be part of a broader attack on regulations, including an executive order signed last month requiring agencies to suggest two rules to be axed for every new one proposed.

For some, Trump's proposed cuts may not go far enough. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) introduced a bill to "completely abolish" the EPA by the end of next year, as HuffPost reported.

Now that Pruitt is in place, Trump is expected to issue executive orders undoing Obama-era EPA rules on climate and water pollution as early as this week.

CNN

http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/21/politics/scott-pruitt-epa-speech/

Pruitt tries to soothe worries at EPA

By Theodore Schleifer 2/21/17, 2:25PM

Washington (CNN) Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt tried his best Tuesday to fuse his humbler vision of his new agency with his stated respect for its long-serving, ambitious regulators in his maiden speech to EPA employees.

In a politically difficult pitch to career employees who may sharply disagree with his vision of a more restrained EPA, Pruitt offered something of a homily to the civil service, saluting those with decades of service and proclaiming them symbols of the agency's value. But Pruitt has promised a drastic overhaul of that agency they serve, a re-do that likely escaped few of the roughly 75 employees gathered in a tall, mahogany meeting room.

"It needs to be tethered to the statute," Pruitt said of their work. "We need to respect that. We need to follow that. Because when we do, guess what happens? We avoid litigation, we avoid the uncertainty of litigation and we reach better ends and outcomes at the end of day."

Pruitt knows something about that -- as Oklahoma attorney general, he made his name suing the Obama-era EPA as overzealous regulators without due concern for their effect on job creation.

He has vowed to curtail what critics say is the agency's zest for rulemaking and to offer a more balanced way to promote hiring while still protecting the environment. He did not mention the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act, two of the EPA's most prominent enforcement tasks, nor the threat of climate change, in his speech.

What he did offer was a flash of deference to the bureaucracy he inherits. Moments after accepting gifts of an EPA lapel pin and a baseball cap, the former minor league baseball team owner celebrated employees who knew their way around the building better than he did. He pledged to listen intently to the agency's most-tenured workers, and to carry himself with "civility," which he conceded in this political era was "in short supply."

Many EPA employees have expressed an uneasiness with Pruitt; the labor union that represents EPA employees even urged their members to call senators and urge them to vote against Pruitt during the confirmation process.

And Pruitt at one point suggested that his image would soften as he escaped the glare of the

media.

"I also recognize you don't know me very well," Pruitt said, urging suspicion of some of of the coverage that only highlighted some of his resume. "I look forward to sharing the rest of the story with you."

Working the room with handshakes and back-pats following his speech, Pruitt signaled that he had to get to know some of his own employees better as well: "I haven't seen you in a while!" he told one of them.

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The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/feb/21/epa-scott-pruitt-trump-environment-economy

New EPA head Scott Pruitt: 'We can be both pro-job and pro-environment'

By Edward Helmore 2/21/17, 1:44PM

The new head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, told agency staff on Tuesday that the US should not have to choose between the economy and the environment.

As the White House reportedly prepares executive orders to roll back Obama-era green regulations, Pruitt struck a conciliatory tone in an address to agency staff, saying he would "listen, learn and lead".

William Happer, frontrunner for job of providing mainstream scientific opinion to officials, backs crackdown on federal scientists' freedom to speak out

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"I believe that we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs, and pro-environment. We don't have to choose between the two," he said in his first speech to EPA workers since he was confirmed as administrator of the agency by the US Senate last week.

"I think our nation has done better than any nation in the world at making sure that we do the job of protecting our natural resources, and protecting our environment, while also respecting economic growth," he told the room of about 70 staff at EPA headquarters in Washington.

Many Republican lawmakers view Pruitt, who sued the agency he now leads more than a dozen times as Oklahoma attorney general, as a refreshing change at the top of an agency they accuse of federal overreach and killing jobs.

But Democrats, environmental advocates and many of the EPA's current and former staff worry his appointment signals a reversal in America's progress cleaning up air and water and fighting global climate change. Nearly 800 former EPA officials signed a letter urging the Senate to reject his confirmation. Opponents argued that his ties to the fossil fuel industry and frequent lawsuits against the agency he now leads should disqualify him.

In his address to staff, Pruitt invoked the founding fathers Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton to urge compromise.

The political environment, he said, was "a very toxic environment" that is "damaging to the overall objective of finding results and answers to the very challenging issues we face as a country".

Pruitt said he would lead the agency based on the principle of finding solutions and working toward solving problems.

"As we do our work here, we deal with very difficult monumental issues with respect to our future environment and natural resources. We must have the same kind of attitude of finding solutions and solving problems."

He addressed the need for acting with civility in the exchange of ideas. "We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through difficult issues and do so in a civil manner."

The EPA administrator said he would seek to listen to those under him: "You can't lead unless you listen." But he also called the agency to observe process and the rule of law.

Pruitt's address comes as the Oklahoma attorney general's office faces a court-ordered deadline to turn over its communications with fossil fuel companies to a watchdog group. Opponents believe the emails will show Pruitt's close ties to the energy industry.

Myron Ebell, a key presidential aide, said climate education material could be 'withdrawn' and review of car fuel efficiency standards could be reopened

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Pruitt said that by following the rule of law, the agency could avoid litigation and the uncertainty that comes with it and said he would seek to ensure that the EPA engendered trust at the state level.

"Regulations ought to make things regular," he said. "Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what's expected of them so they can plan and allocate resources to comply.

"We need to avoid abuses, such as using the guidance process to engage in rule-making, or engaging regulation through litigation. We need to open and transparent in our rule-making."

LA Times

http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-essential-washington-updates-scott-pruitt-tries-to-calm-a-very-1487701833-htmlstory.html

Scott Pruitt tries to calm a rattles EPA workforce

By Evan Halper 2/21/17

Even as the newly installed Environmental Protection Agency chief sought to calm employees anxious about his longtime opposition to the agency, Scott Pruitt managed to rattle them a little more.

Concerns about the direction he will take the EPA grew with publication over the weekend of his first interview as agency chief.

During it, he suggested to the Wall Street Journal that the EPA, which has taken the lead in federal efforts to regulate greenhouse gases, may not even be equipped to be playing much of a role at all.

He left open the possibility that the agency will look for leadership on global warming from the GOP Congress, where there has been a persistent opposition to meaningful climate action and mainstream climate science.

During his first agency-wide address Tuesday, Pruitt focused on his favorite themes of federalism, the need for predictability among regulated industries and the dangers of agency overreach. But he also sought to reassure the staff by remarking repeatedly about how much he values its work.

He expressed admiration for the many employees he met during his first meetings at the headquarters who have been with the agency for decades.

"You can't lead unless you can listen," Pruitt said. "I seek to listen, learn and lead with you." But he also bemoaned the "toxic" nature of modern politics.

Conservatives have accused the EPA of taking actions outside the rule of law in pursuit of a liberal environmental agenda. That's not how many employees of the 15,000-person agency view their work over the last several years. Their relationship with the new boss is certain to be tense. Just before Pruitt was confirmed Friday, 773 former employees signed a letter urging the Senate to reject him.

On Monday, Greenwire reported that Pruitt, a frequent target of protesters, is requesting round-the-clock security protection from the Secret Service. The protests may only intensify as Pruitt sets about dismantling the last administration's work on the environment.

"John Muir is rolling over in his grave at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA," Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said after Tuesday's speech.

Bloomberg BNA

http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=105798485&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=49876800

Pruitt Starts at EPA With Speech to Staff, E-mails Disclosures

By Brian Dabbs 2/21/17

Scott Pruitt will face an eventful first day at the EPA.

The new addition to the agency, fresh off a stint as Oklahoma attorney general, is set to deliver his first remarks to EPA staff just as an Oklahoma district court compels the release of thousands of his former office's e-mails with fossil fuel companies. Adding to that, Democrats and environmental groups are pledging to hound the new Environmental Protection Agency administrator to ensure he complies with the law after Pruitt was confirmed Feb. 17 largely along partisan lines.

The Senate's vote capped weeks of gamesmanship and partisan bickering featuring last-minute Democratic pleas to postpone the vote for 10 days so Senators could review the roughly 2,500 e-mails with fossil fuel companies an Oklahoma judge ordered released by Feb. 21. That's the same day Pruitt will address EPA staff.

“Even if the Republicans in Congress are as actively engaged in covering up his misdeeds at EPA as they have been engaged in covering up the dark-money operation of Mr. Pruitt and the e-mails of Mr. Pruitt, there are still avenues of litigation, of ethics disclosure and of press inquiry that open things up quite a lot,” Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) told reporters Feb. 16.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) also denounced Pruitt, but said it's unclear whether the Republican Senate will conduct genuine oversight over the new administrator. “We will see,” Sanders told Bloomberg BNA.

Democrats have repeatedly accused Pruitt of secretly raising money from fossil fuel companies, while Republicans and some energy-state Democrats say he will scale back onerous EPA regulations.

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), a chief Pruitt supporter, said massive regulatory rollbacks may take time.

“I think that's jumping the gun,” Inhofe told Bloomberg BNA. “The next step is to try to fill in his cabinet. His problem is, he is going to have to have personnel to make all these things happen and get busy. But I know he is going to try and do that.”

EPA Extols Pruitt

Still, the EPA lauded the incoming chief in a message immediately following his confirmation.

“He strongly believes environmental law, policy and progress are all based on cooperation among the states, cooperation between the states and EPA and cooperation between regulators and the public,” the agency said in a statement. “Mr. Pruitt will lead EPA in a way that our future generations inherit a better and healthier environment while advancing America's economic interests.”

As an example of his environmental accomplishments, the agency pointed to a deal Pruitt with struck with his Arkansas counterpart to decrease phosphorus pollution in the Illinois River watershed. The statement also referenced Pruitt's extensive track record of litigation against EPA regulations.

“Pruitt is recognized as a national leader in the cause to restore the proper balance between the states and federal government, and established common sense regulations that are fair and provide relief where needed,” said the agency.

An EPA spokeswoman didn't respond for comment on whether Pruitt has already resigned as Oklahoma attorney general. Oklahoma, as represented by the attorney general's office, is still involving in a range of suits against EPA, such as challenges to the Clean Water Rule, Clean Power Plan, ozone air quality standards, mercury standards for power plants and methane limits for the oil and natural gas industry.

Neither the EPA or the White House responded to Bloomberg BNA's request for comment on

Pruitt's priorities.

Democratic Rancor

The Pruitt nomination passed the Senate 52-46 with two Democrats, Sens. Joe Manchin (W.Va.) and Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.), joining Republicans in support.

An environmental group, Friends of the Earth, pledged to hold Manchin and Heitkamp accountable for undermining the "resistance to [President Donald Trump's] extreme agenda."

Those Democrats, however, joined the rest of their caucus in voting to delay the vote by 10 days. Manchin told Bloomberg BNA the disclosure of the requested e-mails would have helped properly vet the nominee. "I would have liked to have seen them," Manchin said, adding that he personally asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to delay the vote. But Pruitt will put in place policies to benefit West Virginia, a state embattled by a loss of coal jobs, Manchin said.

The Center for Media and Democracy, a watchdog group, and the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, sued the state attorney general's office, headed by Pruitt, over a long-delayed open records release of the 2,500 e-mails.

The request calls for Pruitt's correspondence with Peabody Energy Inc., Arch Coal Inc., Murray Energy Corp., Devon Energy Corp. and Koch Industries Inc., among other organizations. Judge Aletia Haynes Timmons Feb. 17 ordered the release of the e-mails by Feb. 21.

Democrats blasted Republicans for refusing to postpone the confirmation vote to assess the e-mails.

"[Republicans] will now own whatever comes out on [Feb. 21] and subsequent releases of the e-mails," Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), a fierce advocate of combating climate change, told reporters.

Asked why he wouldn't sign off on a delay, McConnell responded: “Because I choose not to. And if they were not making that argument, they'd be making another argument.”

—With assistance from Dean Scott.

Politico

http://www.politico.com/story/2017/02/scott-pruitt-epa-changes-235231

New EPA chief treads softly, but signals big changes to come

By Eric Wolff and Alex Guillen 2/21/17, 1:22PM

New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt offered a conciliatory greeting Tuesday to employees of the agency that he frequently sued in his previous job as Oklahoma's attorney general — but he made clear he plans a sharp departure from the Obama administration in the agency's strategy.

“Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate," he told a group of about 100 agency employees. "Those that we regulate ought to know what we expect of them so that they can plan and allocate resources to comply. That’s really the job of the regulator, and the process that we engage in in adopting regulation is very, very important because it sends a message."

In his previous job, Pruitt had sued to block Obama's EPA rules on climate change and the reach of the Clean Water Act — regulations that the White House is expected to gut with executive orders in the coming days.

Pruitt said the EPA would stop the "abuses that occur sometimes: Guidance through rulemaking, or using the guidance process to do rulemaking, or engaging in litigation — regulation through litigation, consent decrees that actually bypass the Administrative Procedures Act.”

Pruitt also praised the founding fathers, who he said addressed the problems of their day but "didn't shirk their responsibility."

He also used the meeting at EPA headquarters as a sign of how people can disagree and still be able to sit down and have a productive meeting.

"They acted with civility," he said. "Civility is something I believe in very much."

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E&E News

http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/02/21/stories/1060050365

Pruitt's pitch to staff: Give me a chance

By Robin Bravender and Kevin Bogardus 2/21/17

Scott Pruitt talked up his listening skills and desire for "civility" as he addressed a skeptical U.S. EPA staff today.

In his first speech to the agency since his swearing in as EPA administrator Friday, Pruitt stressed his respect for the agency's career staff. He hinted broadly at big changes that are expected to come to the agency under the Trump administration, although he declined to offer specific plans about efforts to repeal Obama administration environmental rules.

Many career EPA staffers have been wary about Pruitt's arrival after the former Oklahoma attorney general battled the agency's regulations in court and vowed major overhauls at the agency.

But Pruitt today cautioned those listening against jumping to conclusions.

"You don't know me very well," he told staff and press gathered in the Rachel Carson Green Room at EPA headquarters in Washington.

"In fact, you don't know me hardly at all other than what you've read in the newspaper and seen on the news," he said. "I might suggest to you ... I look forward to sharing the rest of the story with you as we spend time together. This is a beginning. It's a beginning for us to spend time and discuss certain principles by which I think this agency should conduct itself."

Pruitt steered clear of specifics about the Trump administration's energy policies in his 11-minute speech. He didn't, for example, delve into plans for withdrawing the Obama administration's Waters of the U.S. rule and Clean Power Plan, which he and President Trump have said they plan to do (*Greenwire*, Feb. 20).

Instead, Pruitt's greeting today appeared to be an attempt to calm the waters at the agency where many staffers are anxious.

"Civility is something I believe in very much. We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through some very difficult issues and do so in a civil manner," he told employees.

He added, "I seek to be a good listener. Those of you that have been here for quite some time, whether it's in the air area or water or whatever area that you may be in, I look forward to spending time with you, not just to address certain issues but really spend time and dig down deep with respect to how we're going to do business in the future and get to know you personally and get to know how I can be a resource to you as you do your work. ... You can't lead unless you listen."

The new administrator hinted broadly at some of the reforms he'd like to see at EPA. He said the agency has a responsibility to "avoid abuses that occur sometimes" in rulemaking, and he stressed the importance of following the "rule of law" and in partnering with states through federalism. "I seek to ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level," he said.

Catherine McCabe, who served as EPA's acting boss ahead of Pruitt's confirmation, offered the new administrator gifts, including an EPA lapel pin and an agency baseball cap.

Pruitt, the former co-owner of Oklahoma City's minor league baseball team, said he'd wear the EPA hat with pride to Washington Nationals games.

"I am excited about being in a city that actually has a major league baseball team," he said.

Some EPA employees attended today's event in person. Others tuned in online or listened by phone.

As Pruitt settles into his job, EPA staff and environmentalists will be watching closely to see how he leads the agency.

Agency employees were "hoping not to hear 'Death and Destruction for EPA,'" said John O'Grady, an EPA union leader, ahead of the speech. "Probably what we will hear is a lot of very smooth political talk, but the proof will be in the executive orders that President Trump issues."

The Trump administration is widely expected to issue executive orders directing the rollback of some of President Obama's signature environmental rules, including the Clean Power Plan and WOTUS. Those orders are expected to come as early as this week.

Forbes

http://www.forbes.com/sites/ericmack/2017/02/21/scott-pruitt-lays-out-a-vision-for-the-epa-that-contradicts-the-mission-of-the-epa/#4a7a83025829

Scott Pruitt Lays Out A Vision For The EPA That Contradicts The Mission Of The EPA

By Eric Mack 2/21/17, 1:10PM

New Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt addressed EPA staff and the media Tuesday and in a speech lasting less than fifteen minutes, he spoke mostly about protecting jobs, industry and "the marketplace" and oh yea, the environment, too.

Pruitt comes to the Trump administration from his previous job as Oklahoma Attorney General where he spent a fair amount of time suing the very federal agency that he now heads. In six years he filed more than a dozen lawsuits against the EPA over expansion of the Clean Water Act and regulations on coal-fired power plants.

If that track record didn't make it clear what direction Pruitt will take the EPA, reading between the words of his introduction to the career employees who have spent decades working to safeguard our natural environment solidify it in crystal.

To start, let's just note that the word "climate" did not pass Pruitt's lips, so that's clearly no longer a priority at EPA, as we suspected.

Pruitt began laying out his vision and principles for running the agency by sharing a story of how the founding fathers once sat down together to work out a compromise that would lead to moving the nation's capitol from New York to the shores of the Potomac. He used the historical anecdote as a metaphor for how he will seek dialogue and compromise to address issues and problem solving related to "our environment and natural resources."

To be clear, in this context Pruitt is clearly referring to the industries that extract natural resources like oil and gas to bring them to market.

Pruitt sounds like a nice, reasonable guy in his remarks to be sure, but he's laying out a vision that already undercuts the very mission and long-term objectives of the agency he now leads.

He's not an elected official trying to compromise with other politicians to get bills passed. More of that sort of compromise, which is what was actually happening in his historical anecdote, would be great. But agencies like the EPA have missions and duties that are laid out in statute, which they must execute. Compromise with industry is not included. The mission of the EPA is actually quite simple: "to protect human health and the environment -- air, water, and land."

That's it. Notice there's no mention of protecting extractive industries. For an EPA administrator to begin his tenure by calling for compromise and working together with polluters is a bit like an attorney representing a rape victim sitting down with the client before trial and reminding her that they'll need to keep in mind the concerns and needs of the perpetrator as they prosecute the case.

Pruitt's concluding message was that he believes the EPA can be "pro-energy, pro-jobs and pro-environment."

I suppose it can, but that's not the EPA's job. There are countless other interests out there that are pro-energy and pro-jobs. The EPA was created to be solely concerned with the environment and human health.

To compromise that mission internally, before even sitting down at the table with the energy industry and other polluters, makes what we already knew a matter of public record and imminent policy: that Administrator Pruitt is still the agency's primary adversary, even as he takes its reins.

Washington Examiner

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/pruitt-federalism-matters-at-epa/article/2615361

Pruitt: 'Federalism matters' at EPA

By John Siciliano 2/21/17, 1:01PM

New Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt wants to make the agency a place where "federalism matters" and states are not seen as adversaries, he said Tuesday.

"I seek to ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level," rather than approach them as "adversaries," Pruitt said in his first address to agency staff on Tuesday.

He made the comments after being sworn in as President Trump's head of the EPA on Friday, despite widespread Democratic opposition and protests by environmental groups and former EPA administrators.

Trump has pledged to roll back a number of EPA regulations seen as detrimental to coal miners and energy production jobs.

Pruitt said Tuesday that he doesn't see a conflict between being pro-energy and pro-environment. "We can be both pro-energy and pro-environment ... and we don't have to choose."

Pruitt also wants to make sure everything the agency does is based firmly in statute and the law.

He said the agency should abide by the law to "avoid litigation," devoting more of its time doing the business of the agency, and less time going to court over its regulations.

Washington Times

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/feb/21/scott-pruitt-new-epa-chief-agency-will-respect-rul/

New EPA chief Pruitt says agency will respect rule of law, states' rights

By Ben Wolfgang 2/21/17

He didn't delve into policy specifics nor did he mention his predecessors by name, but new Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt on Tuesday told federal employees

that under his leadership the agency once again will adhere to the rule of law and will respect states' rights.

In a speech to EPA workers in Washington, Mr. Pruitt — the former attorney general of Oklahoma who often clashed with the agency in court as he challenged former President Obama's climate-change agenda — said federal environmental; regulations often have been unnecessarily cumbersome and expensive, and have created confusion rather than clarity.

"Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those they regulate," he said. "I seek to ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level, that those at the state level see us as partners … and not as adversaries."

Mr. Pruitt was confirmed last week by a Senate vote of 52 to 46, drawing the support of two Democrats — Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine voted against him, saying she believes he's unfit to lead the agency.

His address comes the same day the Oklahoma attorney general's office is set to release nearly 3,000 emails containing communications between Mr. Pruitt and oil-and-gas companies. Democrats believe those documents will show clear collusion between the new EPA chief and the fossil fuels sector, though their concerns were not enough to delay last Friday's vote.

Mr. Pruitt has defended his close relationship with oil-and-gas firms while Oklahoma attorney general, saying it was his duty to defend his state's industries against unfair or unlawful regulations.

CNBC

http://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/epa-head-scott-pruitt-to-address-agency-employees-in-speech-tuesday

EPA chief Scott Pruitt says regulators' exist to give certainty

2/21/17

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt called on his agency to offer certainty to those it regulates and advocated for federalism in his first speech to Environmental Protection Agency employees on Tuesday.

"Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what's expected of them, so that they can plan and allocate resources to comply," Pruitt said in comments that reflected his remarks in a hearing before a Senate committee last month.

President Donald Trump's divisive pick to lead the EPA was confirmed and sworn in on Friday, following efforts by Democrats to block the confirmation in committee hearings and before the full Senate.

Environmentalists and progressives have fiercely opposed Pruitt, who has questioned the science behind climate change and sued the EPA 14 times on behalf of Oklahoma while serving as the state's attorney general. Nearly 800 former EPA officials signed a letter urging the Senate to reject Pruitt's confirmation.

Conservatives and the energy industry have hailed Pruitt as an advocate for giving states more control over environmental rules and for fighting what they see as regulatory overreach by the Obama administration. Pruitt is widely expected to execute Trump's promise to scale back Obama-era rules and initiatives aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Pruitt's first speech comes on the same day the Oklahoma attorney general's office faces a court-ordered deadline to turn over its communications with fossil fuel companies to a watchdog group. A *New York Times* investigation found the office had signed a letter drafted by Devon Energy that accused regulators of overstating pollution from natural gas wells.

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: phil.millam@gmail.com
Sent: Sun 2/19/2017 3:44:01 PM
Subject: Pruitt press release

Are you shitting me? Are you a public information office or a bunch of shit-spinning political hacks.

You could have issued a press release which attempted to reassure the employees and public that Mr. Pruitt would do his job. Instead, you cherry picked a bunch of "positive" comments from the industries EPA is supposed to regulate, totally ignoring the issues raised in his confirmation hearings.

I'm sure I'll be seeing another press release which quotes some of Mr. Pruitt's detractors, which are many.

Shame!

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
Cc: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]; Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 7:17:47 PM
Subject: Re: Links to the EPA newsroom: release, "what they're saying," media advisory

Of course!

And here's the link to today's "More ...what they're saying"

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/morewhat-they-are-saying-about-administrator-pruitt-0

Julia P. Valentine
Office of Media Relations
202.564.2663
Sent from USEPA iPhone

On Feb 17, 2017, at 10:07 PM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes indeed, thank you Julia!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 17, 2017, at 9:35 PM, Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov> wrote:

> Thank you Julia!
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> Cathy Milbourn
> Office of Media Relations
> 202-564-7849
> 202-420-8648
>
> On Feb 17, 2017, at 7:41 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator
>
> https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-deliver-remarks-epa-employees
>
> Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/job-creators-american-energy-producers-farmers-and-elected-officials-cheer-scott

Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/scott-pruitt-confirmed-and-sworn-epa-administrator

Julia P. Valentine

Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.

Office of Media Relations

US EPA Headquarters

202.564.2663 desk

202.740.1336 m/txt

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Keith Hayden
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 6:11:15 PM
Subject: News release touting Pruitt nomination

Stop wasting everyone's time with these sorry news releases. The list of people you trotted out in support of the confirmation are a disgrace and only undermine the legacy of a wonderful agency. I'm not sure how the person responsible for this press release managed to avoid throwing up all over their keyboard.

To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Cc: Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 3:07:25 AM
Subject: Re: Links to the EPA newsroom: release, "what they're saying," media advisory

Yes indeed, thank you Julia!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 17, 2017, at 9:35 PM, Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov> wrote:

> Thank you Julia!
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>> https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/job-creators-american-energy-producers-farmers-and-elected-officials-cheer-scott
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>>
>> Julia P. Valentine
>>
>> Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.

Office of Media Relations

US EPA Headquarters

202.564.2663 desk

202.740.1336 m/txt

To: Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Cc: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Milbourn, Cathy
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 2:35:00 AM
Subject: Re: Links to the EPA newsroom: release, "what they're saying," media advisory

Thank you Julia!

Sent from my iPhone
Cathy Milbourn
Office of Media Relations
202-564-7849
202-420-8648

On Feb 17, 2017, at 7:41 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator

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Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/job-creators-american-energy-producers-farmers-and-elected-officials-cheer-scott

Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator

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Julia P. Valentine

Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.

Office of Media Relations

US EPA Headquarters

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From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 12:41:01 AM
Subject: Links to the EPA newsroom: release, "what they're saying," media advisory

Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-deliver-remarks-epa-employees

Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

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Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/scott-pruitt-confirmed-and-sworn-epa-administrator

Julia P. Valentine

Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.

Office of Media Relations

US EPA Headquarters

202.564.2663 desk

202.740.1336 m/txt

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: US EPA Media Relations
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 10:04:46 PM
Subject: Stakeholders Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2017

Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON--American leaders and job creators all across the country today cheered as Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the new EPA Administrator.

Here is some of what they are saying:

U.S. Representative David McKinley (WV)
"Scott Pruitt is the leader America needs at the EPA. He understands that we can protect our environment with common sense policies that don't attack job creators and send thousands of workers, like West Virginia's coal miners, to the unemployment line. In Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt tirelessly fought unwarranted regulations and federal government abuse. I am confident he will bring a pragmatic and balanced approach to the EPA by returning it to its original and lawful mission."

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation
"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment. For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA's harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation. In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

U.S. Senator Shelly Moore Capito (WV)
"Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today's vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA."

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (KS)
"I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt. He understands that while farmers and ranchers make their living off the land, they are also its best stewards. For years we have struggled with an EPA that was not only tone deaf to the needs and concerns of rural America, it was downright adversarial. Producers were burdened with overregulation, which left them feeling ruled, not governed. I am confident Pruitt will lead an EPA that is more respectful of agriculture and will work to restore the trust of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans."

Jeff Keffer, the Chief Executive Officer of Longview Power

“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect the EPA to return to sensible environmental policies based on our existing laws that protect the environment and public health while recognizing the need for reliable and affordable clean coal-based electricity and the many jobs in the coal industry.”

Mitch Bainwol, President & CEO, Auto Alliance
"We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track. The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That’s why standards must also reflect market realities. We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

Paul Bailey, President and CEO, American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity
“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect EPA to return to sensible policies that both protect the environment and recognize the need for reliable and affordable coal-based electricity.“

Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State
“An expert on regulatory and constitutional law, Scott Pruitt will bring a necessary balance to the Environmental Protection Agency. He recognizes that a clean environment and a vibrant economy do not have to be mutually exclusive. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he has repeatedly taken on the tough fights to stop the regulatory overreach of the past decade. Above all, he has a record of distinguished service that will serve our nation well.”

Jay Timmons, President, National Association of Manufacturers
“After facing record high costs to comply with EPA regulations over the past decade, manufacturers welcomed today’s Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We are confident that under his leadership, Pruitt will restore balance to the way environmental regulations are developed. Manufacturers look forward to him getting to work right away. Manufacturers know it’s possible to have responsible environmental stewardship and robust economic growth at the same time. We are leaders on sustainability and developing emissions-reducing innovations, and as we look to find solutions to the environmental challenges we face, manufacturers will continue to lead the way.”

Hal Quinn, CEO, National Mining Association
“The mining community welcomes Mr. Pruitt to Washington as EPA administrator. He brings to this important position a wealth of knowledge about the laws that provide environmental protection to the American people, as well as respect for the law and its limitations on a powerful bureaucracy. As a distinguished attorney general he has demonstrated his appreciation for the right of states to manage their affairs where the law allows, and coming from an important energy state he is mindful of the costs that regulations can impose on the economy. NMA looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his staff to deliver the balanced policies the nation deserves.”

John Weber, National Pork Producers Council
“As Oklahoma attorney general, he struck a balance between protecting the environment and protecting the livelihoods of farmers and business owners. Everyone, particularly farmers, wants to have clean air and water and to preserve and protect our natural resources. But you don’t achieve those goals by piling regulations on the very people who are the stewards of the land, air and water. Scott Pruitt understands that, and that will serve him well as EPA administrator.”

U.S. Representative Paul Gosar (AZ)
“President Trump’s selection of Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator is a clear signal that people, not politics, will be the top priority of his administration. Scott Pruitt believes the EPA should work with local and state governments to enact common-sense regulations that will protect the environment without crushing our economy, I enthusiastically support Administrator Pruitt and I know that he will listen to the unique concerns of Western communities and work with Congress to develop positive legislative solutions. The

Western Caucus looks forward to working with him closely."

U.S. Representative Markwayne Mullin (OK)
"After today's confirmation vote in the Senate, I can hear the sighs of relief coming from thousands of business owners, farmers, and citizens across the country. As the head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt will provide relief for those businesses, farmers, and citizens that have been suffering under this toxic regulatory environment for the last eight years. In Scott's work as Oklahoma's Attorney General, he recognized that Oklahomans know their state best. The most efficient regulatory environment is one where the federal government doesn't tell the states how to regulate; it lets the states determine what is most effective for their state and people. I want to congratulate Scott on this new position and I look forward to following his work cutting the bureaucratic tape at the EPA."

U.S. Representative Randy Weber (TX)
"Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is both capable and qualified for the role of EPA Administrator. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he combatted a rogue EPA on numerous occasions. His confirmation will help restore the EPA to an organization that balances environmental protection with practical regulation."

U.S. Representative Jim Bridenstine (OK)
"President Obama turned the EPA into one of the most vilified agencies in the 'swamp' of over-reaching government. As EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt will bring a rational, constitutional, and federalist perspective to environmental stewardship. He knows the value of preserving our air, water, and land as well as the impact that regulations have had on jobs and people. He is an excellent addition to the Trump Administration."

Craig Uben, President National Cattlemen's Beef Association
"For far too long, the EPA has been a runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers, who use – and responsibly care for – the environment while providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world. Scott Pruitt will restore some common sense to environmental policy and we look forward to working with him on restoring regulatory sanity to Washington, such as by killing the onerous 'Waters of the United States' rule."

Granger MacDonald, Chairman of the National Association of Home Builders
"NAHB congratulates Scott Pruitt on being confirmed as the nation's next EPA Administrator. Pruitt understands the need for a commonsense regulatory process that is based on sound science, and does not trample states' rights or ignore the economic impact on small businesses. NAHB looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his team to help move towards this more reasonable approach."

R022

If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking here.
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Milbourn, Cathy
Sent: Wed 2/22/2017 6:10:52 PM
Subject: RE: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 12:56 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

I have not seen this FOIA. Where is it?

From: Milbourn, Cathy
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 12:00 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

fyi

From: Ben Lefebvre [mailto:blefebvre@politico.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

Hello,

I hope your day is going well. I'm the new oil and gas policy reporter for Politico Pro. I was wondering if anyone at the EPA could chat briefly about the FOIA request the NRDC issued earlier asking for the authors for the EPA's press releases announcing the confirmation of Scott Pruitt. Does the EPA have a reaction to the request? If someone could give me a call at the phone number below, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

PoliticoPro, oil and gas reporter

Office: 703-647-8775

mobile: 313-473-0537

@bjlefebvre

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Milbourn, Cathy
Sent: Wed 2/22/2017 5:59:13 PM
Subject: RE: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 12:56 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

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Ben Lefebvre

PoliticoPro, oil and gas reporter

Office: 703-647-8775

mobile: 313-473-0537

@bjlefebvre

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Graham, Amy (Capito)
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:31:43 PM
Subject: FW: Capito Votes to Confirm Pruitt for EPA Administrator

John – Congratulations! Wanted to pass along our release on Administrator Pruitt's confirmation.

Here is the link to view the release online: https://www.capito.senate.gov/news/press-releases/capito-votes-to-confirm-pruitt-for-epa-administrator-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **CONTACT:** Amy Graham

February 17, 2017 202-228-1403

Capito Votes to Confirm Pruitt for EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) today released the following statement after voting to confirm Attorney General Scott Pruitt as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator:

“Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today’s vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA.”

Click here or the image below to watch Senator Capito urge support for Attorney General Pruitt’s confirmation.

###

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: John Konkus
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 5:16:30 PM
Subject: Fwd: Pruitt release attached and pasted below

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Stewart, Jackie <Jackie.Stewart@fticonsulting.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 12:13 PM
Subject: RE: Pruitt release attached and pasted below
To: John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Longview Power Applauds Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (February 17, 2017)

— Following the Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt as Administrator

of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Jeff Keffer, the Chief Executive Office of Longview Power and Mepco Holdings issued the following statement:

"We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional

head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect the EPA to return to sensible environmental policies based on our existing laws that protect the environment and public health while recognizing the need for reliable and affordable clean coal-based electricity

and the many jobs in the coal industry. "

About Longview Power

Longview Power and Mepco Holdings are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Longview Intermediate Holdings C. Longview Power operates a state-of-the-art 700 MW (net) power generating

station that is the most efficient by heat rate and environmentally compliant coal-fired plant in the 13-state PJM Interconnection energy market. Mepco Holdings operates coal mining facilities that deliver minemouth coal directly by conveyor to Longview Power

in addition to coal sales to other customers. For more information, please visit www.longviewpower.com.

Media Contact

Contact: Jackie Stewart

(330) 720-3945

Jackie.stewart@fticonsulting.com

From: John Konkus [mailto:john.a.konkus@ptt.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:17 AM

To: Stewart, Jackie

Subject: Re: Pruitt release attached and pasted below

Thank you!

On Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 8:28 AM Stewart, Jackie <Jackie.Stewart@fticonsulting.com> wrote:

Consider it done. Will send you final language of what we will send out as soon as the vote takes place.

From:

John Konkus [mailto:john.a.konkus@ptt.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 8:15 AM

To: Stewart, Jackie

Subject: Fwd: Pruitt release attached and pasted below

Jackie: Good morning! Would you be able to have your the Longview Power CEO send something like this below and attached today? The final vote to confirm Mr. Pruitt is expected around

1-2 pm. Thank you!

ACCCE Statement on the Confirmation of

Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Following Senate

confirmation of Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA), the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity issued the following statement:

“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we

expect EPA to return to sensible

policies that both protect the environment and recognize the need for reliable and affordable coal-based electricity. “

Paul Bailey

President and CEO

American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

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To: Jackson, Ryan (Inhofe)[Ryan_Jackson@inhofe.senate.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 3:18:14 PM
Subject: Outreach

Here are the groups we're working with (thus far) asking get them to send out statements once Mr. Pruitt is confirmed early this afternoon. Let me know of any others you want us to touch. I have two helpers so we can get it all done.

Automobile Manufactures Alliance

American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

Longview Power (WV)

National Pork Producers Council

National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association

Congressional Coal Caucus

Congressional Western Caucus

American Petroleum Institute

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

USA Rice

American Chicken Council

CoBank

Cotton Council

Western Peanut Growers

Wheat Growers

Association of Commissioners of Agriculture

Turkey Federation

Beef Cattlemen Association

National Association of Manufacturers

Business Roundtable

Edison Electric Institute

National Mining Association

American Chemistry Council

American Fuels & Petrochemical Manufacturers

National Federation of Independent Business

American Forest & Paper Association

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: John Konkus
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 2:29:58 PM
Subject: Fwd: Pruitt release attached and pasted below
ATT00001.htm
Pruitt Press Release.docx

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 7:48 AM
Subject: Fwd: Pruitt release attached and pasted below
To: John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Paul Bailey <pbailey@americaspower.org>

John,

Please find attached ACCCE's press release. Paul also has a prepared statement below.

Let us know if you need anything today.

RH

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Bailey <pbailey@americaspower.org>

Date: February 17, 2017 at 7:41:20 AM EST

To: "Rashid G. Hallaway" <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>

Cc: Michelle Bloodworth <mbloodworth@americaspower.org>

Subject: Pruitt release attached and pasted below

ACCCE Statement on the Confirmation of

Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Following Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA), the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity issued the following statement:

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policies that both protect the environment and recognize the need for reliable and affordable coal-based electricity. "

Paul Bailey

President and CEO

American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

For Immediate Release:
2.8.17
Contact: Michelle Bloodworth
(XXX) XXX-XXX
mbloodworth@americaspower.org

ACCCE Statement on the Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Following Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity issued the following statement:

"We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect EPA to return to sensible policies that both protect the environment and recognize the need for reliable and affordable coal-based electricity. "

Paul Bailey
President and CEO
American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

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The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity is a partnership of industries involved in producing electricity from coal. Coal, an abundant and affordable American energy resource, provides nearly 35 percent of our power. By 2018, the coal-based power industry will have invested more than $126 billion to reduce emissions and to use this critical resource more cleanly and efficiently than ever before.

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 2:01:23 PM
Subject: Getting Back to You

John,

Here is the statement from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. **This will go when the vote on the Hill is completed or they receive our press release announcing his official confirmation.** Gloria is their VP for Communications.
Amy

Here are nomination and confirmation statements from the Alliance. Gloria

CONFIRMATION STATEMENT: Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance released this statement:

> "We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track. The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That's why standards must also reflect market realities. We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

PRUITT NOMINATION STATEMENT: Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance issued this statement today on the naming of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator:

"Over the past couple years, we've had the opportunity to visit with Attorney General Pruitt in his current role. He is a terrific public servant, a great listener and a principled leader. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity after confirmation to help ensure that the midterm process for fuel economy and greenhouse gases is completed thoroughly and with close attention to achieving a balanced outcome so that we can continue to achieve gains in fuel efficiency and carbon reduction while also protecting customer affordability and auto-dependent jobs."

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Milbourn, Cathy
Sent: Wed 2/22/2017 4:59:41 PM
Subject: FW: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

fyi

From: Ben Lefebvre [mailto:blefebvre@politico.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

Hello,

I hope your day is going well. I'm the new oil and gas policy reporter for Politico Pro. I was wondering if anyone at the EPA could chat briefly about the FOIA request the NRDC issued earlier asking for the authors for the EPA's press releases announcing the confirmation of Scott Pruitt. Does the EPA have a reaction to the request? If someone could give me a call at the phone number below, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

PoliticoPro, oil and gas reporter

Office: 703-647-8775

mobile: 313-473-0537

@bjlefebvre

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: US EPA Media Relations
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 10:05:18 PM
Subject: Stakeholders Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2017

Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON--American leaders and job creators all across the country today cheered as Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the new EPA Administrator.

Here is some of what they are saying:

U.S. Representative David McKinley (WV)
"Scott Pruitt is the leader America needs at the EPA. He understands that we can protect our environment with common sense policies that don't attack job creators and send thousands of workers, like West Virginia's coal miners, to the unemployment line. In Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt tirelessly fought unwarranted regulations and federal government abuse. I am confident he will bring a pragmatic and balanced approach to the EPA by returning it to its original and lawful mission."

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation
"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment. For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA's harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation. In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

U.S. Senator Shelly Moore Capito (WV)
"Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today's vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA."

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (KS)
"I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt. He understands that while farmers and ranchers make their living off the land, they are also its best stewards. For years we have struggled with an EPA that was not only tone deaf to the needs and concerns of rural America, it was downright adversarial. Producers were burdened with overregulation, which left them feeling ruled, not governed. I am confident Pruitt will lead an EPA that is more respectful of agriculture and will work to restore the trust of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans."

Jeff Keffer, the Chief Executive Officer of Longview Power

“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect the EPA to return to sensible environmental policies based on our existing laws that protect the environment and public health while recognizing the need for reliable and affordable clean coal-based electricity and the many jobs in the coal industry.”

Mitch Bainwol, President & CEO, Auto Alliance
"We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track. The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That’s why standards must also reflect market realities. We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

Paul Bailey, President and CEO, American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity
“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect EPA to return to sensible policies that both protect the environment and recognize the need for reliable and affordable coal-based electricity.“

Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State
“An expert on regulatory and constitutional law, Scott Pruitt will bring a necessary balance to the Environmental Protection Agency. He recognizes that a clean environment and a vibrant economy do not have to be mutually exclusive. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he has repeatedly taken on the tough fights to stop the regulatory overreach of the past decade. Above all, he has a record of distinguished service that will serve our nation well.”

Jay Timmons, President, National Association of Manufacturers
“After facing record high costs to comply with EPA regulations over the past decade, manufacturers welcomed today’s Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We are confident that under his leadership, Pruitt will restore balance to the way environmental regulations are developed. Manufacturers look forward to him getting to work right away. Manufacturers know it’s possible to have responsible environmental stewardship and robust economic growth at the same time. We are leaders on sustainability and developing emissions-reducing innovations, and as we look to find solutions to the environmental challenges we face, manufacturers will continue to lead the way.”

Hal Quinn, CEO, National Mining Association
“The mining community welcomes Mr. Pruitt to Washington as EPA administrator. He brings to this important position a wealth of knowledge about the laws that provide environmental protection to the American people, as well as respect for the law and its limitations on a powerful bureaucracy. As a distinguished attorney general he has demonstrated his appreciation for the right of states to manage their affairs where the law allows, and coming from an important energy state he is mindful of the costs that regulations can impose on the economy. NMA looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his staff to deliver the balanced policies the nation deserves.”

John Weber, National Pork Producers Council
“As Oklahoma attorney general, he struck a balance between protecting the environment and protecting the livelihoods of farmers and business owners. Everyone, particularly farmers, wants to have clean air and water and to preserve and protect our natural resources. But you don’t achieve those goals by piling regulations on the very people who are the stewards of the land, air and water. Scott Pruitt understands that, and that will serve him well as EPA administrator.”

U.S. Representative Paul Gosar (AZ)
“President Trump’s selection of Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator is a clear signal that people, not politics, will be the top priority of his administration. Scott Pruitt believes the EPA should work with local and state governments to enact common-sense regulations that will protect the environment without crushing our economy, I enthusiastically support Administrator Pruitt and I know that he will listen to the unique concerns of Western communities and work with Congress to develop positive legislative solutions. The

Western Caucus looks forward to working with him closely."

U.S. Representative Markwayne Mullin (OK)
"After today's confirmation vote in the Senate, I can hear the sighs of relief coming from thousands of business owners, farmers, and citizens across the country. As the head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt will provide relief for those businesses, farmers, and citizens that have been suffering under this toxic regulatory environment for the last eight years. In Scott's work as Oklahoma's Attorney General, he recognized that Oklahomans know their state best. The most efficient regulatory environment is one where the federal government doesn't tell the states how to regulate; it lets the states determine what is most effective for their state and people. I want to congratulate Scott on this new position and I look forward to following his work cutting the bureaucratic tape at the EPA."

U.S. Representative Randy Weber (TX)
"Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is both capable and qualified for the role of EPA Administrator. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he combatted a rogue EPA on numerous occasions. His confirmation will help restore the EPA to an organization that balances environmental protection with practical regulation."

U.S. Representative Jim Bridenstine (OK)
"President Obama turned the EPA into one of the most vilified agencies in the 'swamp' of over-reaching government. As EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt will bring a rational, constitutional, and federalist perspective to environmental stewardship. He knows the value of preserving our air, water, and land as well as the impact that regulations have had on jobs and people. He is an excellent addition to the Trump Administration."

Craig Uben, President National Cattlemen's Beef Association
"For far too long, the EPA has been a runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers, who use – and responsibly care for – the environment while providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world. Scott Pruitt will restore some common sense to environmental policy and we look forward to working with him on restoring regulatory sanity to Washington, such as by killing the onerous 'Waters of the United States' rule."

Granger MacDonald, Chairman of the National Association of Home Builders
"NAHB congratulates Scott Pruitt on being confirmed as the nation's next EPA Administrator. Pruitt understands the need for a commonsense regulatory process that is based on sound science, and does not trample states' rights or ignore the economic impact on small businesses. NAHB looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his team to help move towards this more reasonable approach."

R022

If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking here.
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: John Konkus
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 9:27:52 PM
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 3:46 PM
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt
To: dewey.amy@epa.gov <dewey.amy@epa.gov>, Bennett, Tate <Tate.Bennett@nreca.coop>, John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Jeremy Stump <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>

See below from Crop Life. Thank you, Jeremy!

From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:45 PM

Subject: RE: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

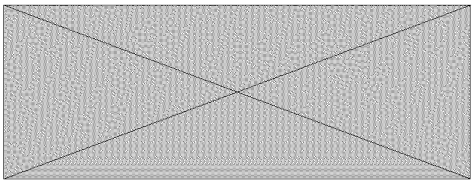
To: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>

Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920] <scott.kuschmider@monsanto.com>, Robert Hobart <rob@hobartventures.com>

Rashid,

Crop Life's supportive release just came in as well.

Jeremy



For Immediate Release:

February 17, 2017

Contact: Genevieve O'Sullivan

Phone: (202) 872-3864

Email: gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

-

CLA Looks

to EPA Administrator Pruitt to Increase Transparency, Predictablity

WASHINGTON, DC– Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt

as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Administrator Pruitt has a long career serving the people of Oklahoma, most recently as its attorney general. He was also elected to the Oklahoma Senate from 1998 until 2006. In January, CropLife

America (CLA) signed a letter of support for the President's nomination of Pruitt to lead the EPA. With Pruitt at the helm of the Agency, the association is hopeful that EPA will be responsive to the concerns of the crop protection industry and guide the Agency

to a more transparent and predictable pesticide registration process.

"EPA needs an effective leader, un-swayed by the whims of unscientific fear campaigns," stated Jay Vroom, president

and CEO of CLA. "Through his service to the great state of Oklahoma, Administrator Pruitt has shown that he carefully listens to the needs of agriculture and other constituents and works to get policy outcomes that adhere to science and law. We are eager to

share our priority issues with the new leadership at EPA, including the need for rigor in examining studies used in human health risk assessments. After Sonny Perdue is confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture, we can all focus on getting farmers the finest technology

that science can bring."

"The scientific community looks to government leaders to place facts over opinions and carefully consider existing

data," stated Dr. Janet E. Collins, executive vice president of science and regulatory affairs at CLA. "We are confident that Administrator Pruitt will not only keep an open mind regarding the advancement of farming but will support the technologies that continue

to move American farming forward. Our industry looks to the new EPA leadership to ensure that the Agency uses only the best available science in the regulation of crop protection products. The protection

of the environment, the health of our families and the

strength of U.S. farming depend on it."

CLA actively engages with consumers, food bloggers, farmers, chefs, foodies, journalists and others interested in

food production on social media, including Facebook,Twitter

and Instagram.

Get involved now with the conversation on how to move U.S. farming forward with #FoodForward. For more information on how farmers use crop protection technology to grow healthy food, visitwww.GiveaCrop.org.

-xxx-

Established in 1933,CropLife

America (CLA) represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CLA's

member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all of the vital and necessary crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers. CLA can be found on Twitter at@CropLifeAmerica.

CLA supports CropLife

StewardshipFirst.

From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:36:27 PM

To: Rashid G. Hallaway

Cc: KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920]; Robert Hobart

Subject: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

Farm Bureau Hails Pruitt Confirmation

Newsroom / Feb 17th, 2017

Share This Article

The following may be attributed to Zippy Duvall, president, American Farm Bureau Federation:

"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh

air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense

in the important job of protecting the environment.

“For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA’s harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers

are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation.

“In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation

that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We’re optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands

how farmers and ranchers care for our nation’s natural resources each and every day.”

Contact:

Will Rodger

Director, Policy Communications

(202) 406-3642

willr@fb.org

Mace Thornton

Executive Director, Communications

(202) 406-3641

macet@fb.org

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: John Konkus
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 8:39:42 PM
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 3:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: AFBF Statement on Pruitt
To: John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Bennett, Tate <Tate.Bennett@nreca.coop>, Jeremy Stump <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>

John/Tate,

Please see below from Farm Bureau. Thank you.

RH

From: STUMP, JEREMY [AG/1920] <jeremy.stump@monsanto.com>

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:36 PM

Subject: AFBF Statement on Pruitt

To: Rashid G. Hallaway <rhallaway@hhqventures.com>

Cc: Robert Hobart <rob@hobartventures.com>, KUSCHMIDER, SCOTT [AG/1920] <scott.kuschmider@monsanto.com>

Farm Bureau Hails Pruitt Confirmation

Newsroom / Feb 17th, 2017

Share This Article

The following may be attributed to Zippy Duvall, president, American Farm Bureau Federation:

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optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands

how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

Contact:

Will Rodger

Director, Policy Communications

(202) 406-3642

willr@fb.org

Mace Thornton

Executive Director, Communications

(202) 406-3641

macet@fb.org

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: John Konkus
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 8:34:17 PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: McKinley: Scott Pruitt Will Reform the EPA

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Stapleton, John <John.Stapleton@mail.house.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 2:49 PM
Subject: FW: McKinley: Scott Pruitt Will Reform the EPA
To: John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Deeley, Blake <Blake.Deeley@mail.house.gov>

Hi John,

Congratulations to EPA Administrator Pruitt! He will do a terrific job. Below is the statement we just sent out regarding his confirmation. Thanks.

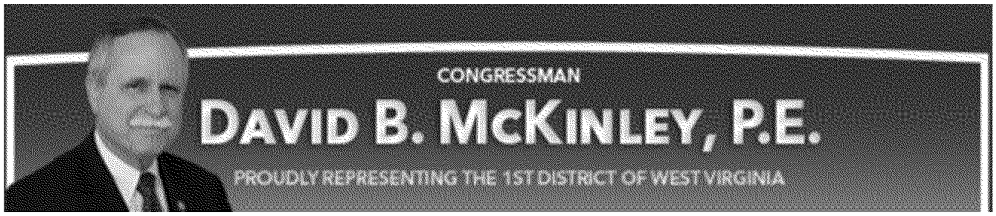
John Stapleton

From: Stapleton, John

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 2:49 PM

To: Stapleton, John

Subject: McKinley: Scott Pruitt Will Reform the EPA



For Immediate Release:

February 17, 2017

Contact:

John Stapleton,

(202) 225-4172

McKinley: Scott Pruitt Will Reform the EPA

Washington, D.C. –

Chairman of the Congressional Coal Caucus David B. McKinley, P.E. (WV-1) released the following statement after Attorney General Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the Senate to be the

next EPA Administrator.

"Scott Pruitt is the leader America needs at the EPA. He understands that we can protect our environment with common sense policies that don't

attack job creators and send thousands of workers, like West Virginia's coal miners, to the unemployment line," said McKinley.

"In Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt tirelessly fought unwarranted regulations and federal government abuse. I am confident he will bring a pragmatic and

balanced approach to the EPA by returning it to its original and lawful mission," McKinley said.

To read Congressman McKinley's op-ed in support of Scott Pruitt's nomination, click

here.

###

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: John Konkus
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 7:17:23 PM
Subject: Fwd: Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Tate Bennett <tatebennett329@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 2:08 PM
Subject: Fwd: Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA
To: <dewy.amy@epa.gov>, John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Colin Woodall <cwoodall@beef.org>

John and Amy,

Please see below from the National Beef Cattle Association. Colin Woodall (cc'd) is great to work with and is your best POC there, Amy. Colin, Amy heads up coalitions at EPA.

Thanks all!

From: Colin Woodall <cwoodall@beef.org>
Date: February 17, 2017 at 2:03:27 PM EST
To: Tate Bennett <tatebennett329@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

From: Ed Frank

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:45 PM

To: Ed Frank <efrank@beef.org>

Subject: Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Contacts:

Ed Frank 202-879-9125 efrank@beef.org

Shawna Newsome 202-879-9138 snewsome@beef.org

Cattlemen: Pruitt Will Restore

Common Sense, Regulatory Sanity To EPA

WASHINGTON (Feb. 17, 2017) -- Craig Uden, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) today released the following statement in response to the

U.S. Senate's confirmation of Scott Pruitt to be the next administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) –

"For far too long, the EPA has been a runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers, who use – and responsibly

care for – the environment while providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world. Scott Pruitt will restore some common sense to environmental policy and we look forward to working with him on restoring regulatory sanity to Washington, such

as by killing the onerous 'waters of the United States' rule."

###

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has represented America's cattle producers since 1898, preserving the heritage and strength of the industry

through education and public policy. As the largest association of cattle producers, NCBA works to create new markets and increase demand for beef. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or

membership@beef.org.

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: John Konkus
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 7:07:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: Western Caucus Members Praise Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Small, Jeff <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 2:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: Western Caucus Members Praise Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator
To: john.a.konkus@ptt.gov <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Cc: Roberson, Kelly <Kelly.Roberson@mail.house.gov>, Van Flein, Tom <Tom.VanFlein@mail.house.gov>

Congratulations John!

Below is the press release that jut went out from the Caucus.

Thanks for all your help. Look forward to future efforts.

Sincerely,

Jeff Small

Executive Director | Congressional Western Caucus

Senior Advisor | Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.

2057

Rayburn HOB | Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-2315 main

jeff.small@mail.house.gov

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Congressional Western Caucus <Rep.Paul.Gosar@mail.house.gov>

Date: February 17, 2017 at 1:48:42 PM EST

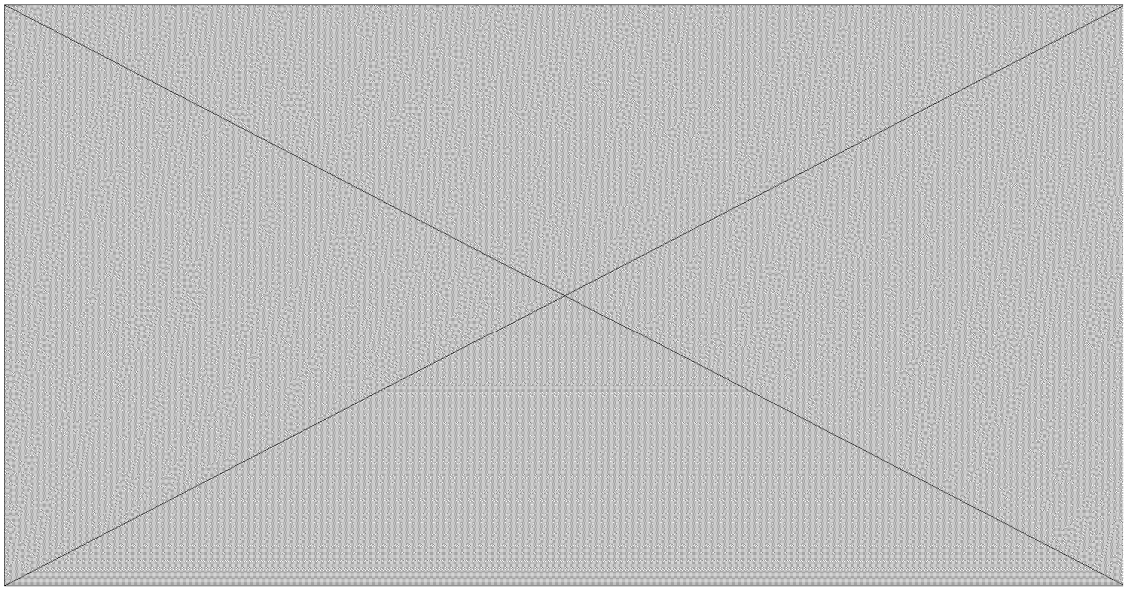
To: <az04all@housemail.house.gov>

Subject: Western Caucus Members Praise Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

For Immediate Release **Date:** February 17, 2017

Contact: Kelly Roberson Kelly.Roberson@mail.house.gov

Western Caucus Members Praise Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator



WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today,

Congressional Western Caucus **Chairman Paul A. Gosar D.D.S. (AZ-04)** and Western Caucus members

Markwayne Mullin (OK-02), Randy Weber (TX-14) and **Jim Bridenstine (OK-01)** released the following statements after Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate by a bipartisan vote of 52-46 to serve as Administrator of

the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

“President Trump’s selection of Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator is a clear signal that people, not politics, will be the top priority of his administration. Scott Pruitt believes the EPA should

work with local and state governments to enact common-sense regulations that will protect the environment without crushing our economy,” said

Chairman Gosar. “I enthusiastically support Administrator Pruitt and I know that he will listen to the unique concerns of Western communities and work with Congress to develop positive legislative solutions. The Western Caucus looks forward to working

with him closely.”

“After today’s confirmation vote in the Senate, I can hear the sighs of relief coming from thousands of business owners, farmers,

and citizens across the country. As the head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt will provide relief for those businesses, farmers, and citizens that have been suffering under this toxic regulatory environment for the last eight years. In Scott’s work as Oklahoma’s

Attorney General, he recognized that Oklahomans know their state best,” remarked

Congressman Mullin. “The most efficient regulatory environment is one where the federal government doesn’t tell the states how to regulate; it lets the states determine what is most effective

for their state and people. I want to congratulate Scott on this new position and I look forward to following his work cutting the bureaucratic tape at the EPA.”

Congressman Weber

said, “Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is both capable and qualified for the role of EPA Administrator. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he combatted a rogue EPA on numerous occasions. His confirmation will help restore the EPA to an organization that

balances environmental protection with practical regulation.”

“President Obama turned the EPA into one of the most vilified agencies in the

‘swamp’ of over-reaching government. As EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt will bring a rational, constitutional, and federalist perspective

to environmental stewardship. He knows the value of preserving our air, water, and land as well as the impact that regulations have had on jobs and people. He is an excellent addition to the Trump Administration,” said

Congressman Bridenstine.

Background:

As a result of confirmation by the Senate today, Scott Pruitt will be the 14th Administrator of the EPA.

Redirecting the priorities of the EPA will be a daunting task. Under the outgoing Administration, the EPA churned out a jaw-dropping 4,000 new rules. Just filing the additional paperwork for bureaucrats back

East from these regulations would impose a collective administrative burden of 3,767 years. Worse, the new regulations would stick Americans with an estimated $344 billion price tag.

As an EPA Administrator steeped in constitutional law, Pruitt will end the practice of creating policies that ignore individual property rights. As Oklahoma’s Attorney General, Pruitt joined with several states

in litigating against the EPA’s WOTUS rule. Further, he established his state’s first “federalism unit” to combat unwarranted regulation and overreach by the federal government.

Pruitt also compiled an impressive conservation record as Attorney General, suggesting that he will be a sound environmental steward. He reached across the political aisle and state lines to hammer out an agreement

with Arkansas’ Attorney General to improve the water quality of the Illinois River. The process had been stalled for years, and observers had given it little chance of success until Pruitt rose to the challenge.

While Pruitt supports the safe development of the nation's resources to provide jobs and energy security, his record also shows that he has been tenacious in taking on polluters. As Attorney General, Pruitt has

demonstrated that he's more than willing to go after polluters. He has litigated against oil and gas companies that were defrauding his state's taxpayers and profiting from pollution. Pruitt also took on utility companies in numerous rate cases.

The EPA's mission calls for protecting both the nation's natural resources and the people who live in this country. Pruitt understands that he must strike a balance that has been absent from the EPA over the

past eight years. He recognizes that enhancing air, land and water quality doesn't have to come at the cost of environmental regulations that stifle job growth and stall economic recovery. His refreshing perspective will go a long way toward restoring public

faith in the EPA and putting it back on its rightful course.

###

WEBSITE

UNSUBSCRIBE

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: John Konkus
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 7:06:54 PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Statement of NPPC President John Weber on Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator
image005.jpg
image006.png
image007.jpg

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: John Konkus <john.a.konkus@ptt.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 2:06 PM
Subject: Re: FW: Statement of NPPC President John Weber on Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator
To: Michael Formica <formicam@nppc.org>, Ryan Jackson <ryanjackson@jiminhofe.com>

Thank you!
On Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 1:56 PM Michael Formica <formicam@nppc.org> wrote:

FYI

From: NPPC News

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:53 PM

Subject: Statement of NPPC President John Weber on Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

Statement of NPPC President John Weber on Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 17, 2017

– "NPPC congratulates Scott Pruitt on his confirmation as EPA administrator. He's a champion for American agriculture who relies on science and supports the rule of law in advancing common

sense regulations that will protect our environment without overburdening farmers.

"As Oklahoma attorney general, he struck a balance between protecting the environment and protecting the livelihoods of farmers and business owners. Everyone, particularly farmers, wants to have

clean air and water and to preserve and protect our natural resources. But you don't achieve those goals by piling regulations on the very people who are the stewards of the land, air and water. Scott Pruitt understands that, and that will serve him well as

EPA administrator."

# # #

NPPC is the global voice for the U.S. pork industry, protecting the livelihoods of America's 60,000 pork producers, who abide by ethical principles in caring for their animals, in protecting the

environment and public health and in providing safe, wholesome, nutritious pork products to consumers worldwide. For more information, visit

www.nppc.org.

http://www.porkcares.org/
https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-pork-producers-council
https://www.pinterest.com/nppc/
https://www.facebook.com/NationalPorkProducersCouncil
https://twitter.com/nppc?lang=en

ED_001268A_000000583

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Dave Warner | (202) 347-3600 | warnerd@nppc.org

To: Kaelan.K.Dorr@who.eop.gov[Kaelan.K.Dorr@who.eop.gov];
Bradley.A.Rateike Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Bradley.A.Rateike Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
kelly.a.love@ Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy kelly.a.love Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 12:49:34 AM
Subject: Links to the EPA newsroom: release, "what they're saying," media advisory

Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-deliver-remarks-epa-employees

Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/job-creators-american-energy-producers-farmers-and-elected-officials-cheer-scott

Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/scott-pruitt-confirmed-and-sworn-epa-administ

To: cdrwenski@me.com[cdrwenski@me.com]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 12:23:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: Stakeholders Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

From: US EPA Media Relations <noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov>
Date: February 17, 2017 at 5:05:18 PM EST
To: <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Stakeholders Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2017

Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON--American leaders and job creators all across the country today cheered as Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the new EPA Administrator.

Here is some of what they are saying:

U.S. Representative David McKinley (WV)
"Scott Pruitt is the leader America needs at the EPA. He understands that we can protect our environment with common sense policies that don't attack job creators and send thousands of workers, like West Virginia's coal miners, to the unemployment line. In Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt tirelessly fought unwarranted regulations and federal government abuse. I am confident he will bring a pragmatic and balanced approach to the EPA by returning it to its original and lawful mission."

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation
"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment. For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA's harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation. In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

U.S. Senator Shelly Moore Capito (WV)
"Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today's vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to

West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA."

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (KS)
"I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt. He understands that while farmers and ranchers make their living off the land, they are also its best stewards. For years we have struggled with an EPA that was not only tone deaf to the needs and concerns of rural America, it was downright adversarial. Producers were burdened with overregulation, which left them feeling ruled, not governed. I am confident Pruitt will lead an EPA that is more respectful of agriculture and will work to restore the trust of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans."

Jeff Keffer, the Chief Executive Officer of Longview Power
"We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect the EPA to return to sensible environmental policies based on our existing laws that protect the environment and public health while recognizing the need for reliable and affordable clean coal-based electricity and the many jobs in the coal industry."

Mitch Bainwol, President & CEO, Auto Alliance
"We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track. The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That's why standards must also reflect market realities. We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

Paul Bailey, President and CEO, American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity
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Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State
"An expert on regulatory and constitutional law, Scott Pruitt will bring a necessary balance to the Environmental Protection Agency. He recognizes that a clean environment and a vibrant economy do not have to be mutually exclusive. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he has repeatedly taken on the tough fights to stop the regulatory overreach of the past decade. Above all, he has a record of distinguished service that will serve our nation well."

Jay Timmons, President, National Association of Manufacturers
"After facing record high costs to comply with EPA regulations over the past decade, manufacturers welcomed today's Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We are confident that under his leadership, Pruitt will restore balance to the way environmental regulations are developed. Manufacturers look forward to him getting to work right away. Manufacturers know it's possible to have responsible environmental stewardship and robust economic growth at the same time. We are leaders on sustainability and developing emissions-reducing innovations, and as we look to find solutions to the environmental challenges we face, manufacturers will continue to lead the way."

Hal Quinn, CEO, National Mining Association
"The mining community welcomes Mr. Pruitt to Washington as EPA administrator. He brings to this important position a wealth of knowledge about the laws that provide environmental protection to the American people, as well as respect for the law and its limitations on a powerful bureaucracy. As a distinguished attorney general he has demonstrated his appreciation for the right of states to manage their affairs where the law allows, and coming from an important energy state he is mindful of the costs that regulations can impose on the economy. NMA looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his staff to deliver the balanced policies the nation deserves."

John Weber, National Pork Producers Council
"As Oklahoma attorney general, he struck a balance between protecting the environment and protecting the livelihoods of farmers and business owners. Everyone, particularly farmers, wants to have clean air and water and to preserve and protect our natural resources. But you don't achieve those goals by piling regulations on the very people who are the stewards of the land, air and water. Scott Pruitt understands that, and that will serve him well as EPA administrator."

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U.S. Representative Randy Weber (TX)
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Craig Uben, President National Cattlemen's Beef Association
"For far too long, the EPA has been a runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers, who use – and responsibly care for – the environment while providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world. Scott Pruitt will restore some common sense to environmental policy and we look forward to working with him on restoring regulatory sanity to Washington, such as by killing the onerous 'Waters of the United States' rule."

Granger MacDonald, Chairman of the National Association of Home Builders
"NAHB congratulates Scott Pruitt on being confirmed as the nation's next EPA Administrator. Pruitt understands the need for a commonsense regulatory process that is based on sound science, and does not trample states' rights or ignore the economic impact on small businesses. NAHB looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his team to help move towards this more reasonable approach."

R022

If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking here.
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 9:18:07 PM
Subject: Home builders

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To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 8:49:05 PM
Subject: What they are saying...

Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

American leaders and job creators all across the country today cheered as Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the new EPA Administrator. Here is some of what they are saying.

"Scott Pruitt is the leader America needs at the EPA. He understands that we can protect our environment with common sense policies that don't attack job creators and send thousands of workers, like West Virginia's coal miners, to the unemployment line. In Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt tirelessly fought unwarranted regulations and federal government abuse. I am confident he will bring a pragmatic and balanced approach to the EPA by returning it to its original and lawful mission." – U.S. Representative David McKinley (WV-1)

"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment. For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA's harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation. In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day." – Zippy Duvall, president, American Farm Bureau Federation

To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 7:28:37 PM
Subject: What they are saying
What they are saying.docx

Please use these to draft a press release to go out at 4pm.

“Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today’s vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA.” – U.S. Senator Shelly Moore Capito (WV)

“I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt. He understands that while farmers and ranchers make their living off the land, they are also its best stewards. For years we have struggled with an EPA that was not only tone deaf to the needs and concerns of rural America, it was downright adversarial. Producers were burdened with overregulation, which left them feeling ruled, not governed. I am confident Pruitt will lead an EPA that is more respectful of agriculture and will work to restore the trust of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans.” – U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (KS)

“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect the EPA to return to sensible environmental policies based on our existing laws that protect the environment and public health while recognizing the need for reliable and affordable clean coal-based electricity and the many jobs in the coal industry. “ -- Jeff Keffer, the Chief Executive Office of Longview Power

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"The mining community welcomes Mr. Pruitt to Washington as EPA administrator. He brings to this important position a wealth of knowledge about the laws that provide environmental protection to the American people, as well as respect for the law and its limitations on a powerful bureaucracy. As a distinguished attorney general he has demonstrated his appreciation for the right of states to manage their affairs where the law allows, and coming from an important energy state he is mindful of the costs that regulations can impose on the economy. NMA looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his staff to deliver the balanced policies the nation deserves." -- Hal Quinn, CEO National Mining Association

"As Oklahoma attorney general, he struck a balance between protecting the environment and protecting the livelihoods of farmers and business owners. Everyone, particularly farmers, wants to have clean air and water and to preserve and protect our natural resources. But you don't achieve those goals by piling regulations on the very people who are the stewards of the land, air and water. Scott Pruitt understands that, and that will serve him well as EPA administrator." – John Weber, National Pork Producers Council

"President Trump's selection of Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator is a clear signal that people, not politics, will be the top priority of his administration. Scott Pruitt believes the EPA should work with local and state governments to enact common-sense regulations that will protect the environment without crushing our economy, I enthusiastically support Administrator Pruitt and I know that he will listen to the unique concerns of Western communities and work with Congress to develop positive legislative solutions. The Western Caucus looks forward to working
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"After today's confirmation vote in the Senate, I can hear the sighs of relief coming from thousands of business owners, farmers, and citizens across the country. As the head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt will provide relief for those businesses, farmers, and citizens that have been suffering under this toxic regulatory environment for the last eight years. In Scott's work as Oklahoma's
Attorney General, he recognized that Oklahomans know their state best. The most efficient regulatory environment is one where the federal government doesn't tell the states how to regulate; it lets the states determine what is most effective for their state and people. I want to congratulate Scott on this new position and I look forward to following his work cutting the bureaucratic tape at the EPA." – U.S. Representative Markwayne Mullin (OK-02)

"Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is both capable and qualified for the role of EPA Administrator. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he combatted a rogue EPA on numerous occasions. His confirmation will help restore the EPA to an organization that balances environmental protection with practical regulation." U.S. Representative Randy Weber (TX-14)

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government. As EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt will bring a rational, constitutional, and federalist perspective to environmental stewardship. He knows the value of preserving our air, water, and land as well as the impact that regulations have had on jobs and people. He is an excellent addition to the Trump Administration," U.S. Representative Jim Bridenstine (OK-01)

"For far too long, the EPA has been a runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers, who use – and responsibly care for – the environment while providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world. Scott Pruitt will restore some common sense to environmental policy and we look forward to working with him on restoring regulatory sanity to Washington, such as by killing the onerous 'waters of the United States' rule." – Craig Uben, President National Cattlemen's Beef Association

To: Graham, Amy (Capito)[Amy_Graham@capito.senate.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 6:34:46 PM
Subject: RE: Capito Votes to Confirm Pruitt for EPA Administrator

Thank you Amy!

From: Graham, Amy (Capito) [mailto:Amy_Graham@capito.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:32 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Capito Votes to Confirm Pruitt for EPA Administrator

John – Congratulations! Wanted to pass along our release on Administrator Pruitt's confirmation.

Here is the link to view the release online: https://www.capito.senate.gov/news/press-releases/capito-votes-to-confirm-pruitt-for-epa-administrator-

SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO
UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR WEST VIRGINIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **CONTACT:** Amy Graham

February 17, 2017 202-228-1403

Capito Votes to Confirm Pruitt for EPA

Administrator

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) today released the following statement after voting to confirm Attorney General Scott Pruitt as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator:

"Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today's vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA."

Click here or the image below to watch Senator Capito urge support for Attorney General Pruitt's confirmation.

CAPITO.SENATE.GOV
WATCH VIDEO

###

To: Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO[redacted]
Kelly.A.Love[redacted]
Bradley.A.Rateike[redacted]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 5:54:35 PM
Subject: FYI Outreach
What they are saying.docx

Here are the groups we're working with (thus far) asking them to send out statements once Mr. Pruitt is confirmed. Attached is the start of a "What they are saying" release that will go out tomorrow morning.

Automobile Manufactures Alliance

American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

Longview Power (WV)

National Pork Producers Council

National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association

Congressional Coal Caucus

Congressional Western Caucus

American Petroleum Institute

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

USA Rice

American Chicken Council

CoBank

Cotton Council

Western Peanut Growers

Wheat Growers

Association of Commissioners of Agriculture

Turkey Federation

Beef Cattlemen Association

National Association of Manufacturers

Business Roundtable

Edison Electric Institute

National Mining Association

American Chemistry Council

American Fuels & Petrochemical Manufacturers

National Federation of Independent Business

American Forest & Paper Association

“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect the EPA to return to sensible environmental policies based on our existing laws that protect the environment and public health while recognizing the need for reliable and affordable clean coal-based electricity and the many jobs in the coal industry. “ -- Jeff Keffer, the Chief Executive Office of Longview Power

"We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track. The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That’s why standards must also reflect market realities. We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule." -- Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Auto Alliance

“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect EPA to return to sensible policies that both protect the environment and recognize the need for reliable and affordable coal-based electricity.“ -- Paul Bailey, President and CEO, American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

“An expert on regulatory and constitutional law, Scott Pruitt will bring a necessary balance to the Environmental Protection Agency. He recognizes that a clean environment and a vibrant economy do not have to be mutually exclusive. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he has repeatedly taken on the tough fights to stop the regulatory overreach of the past decade. Above all, he has a record of distinguished service that will serve our nation well.” -- Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State

To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 5:32:18 PM
Subject: What they are saying

Job Creators cheer Scott Pruitt's Confirmation to be Administrator of EPA

"We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect the EPA to return to sensible environmental policies based on our existing laws that protect the environment and public health while recognizing the need for reliable and affordable clean coal-based electricity and the many jobs in the coal industry. " -- Jeff Keffer, the Chief Executive Office of Longview Power

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To: Jackson, Ryan (Inhofe)[Ryan_Jackson@inhofe.senate.gov]
Bcc: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 3:18:14 PM
Subject: Outreach

Here are the groups we're working with (thus far) asking get them to send out statements once Mr. Pruitt is confirmed early this afternoon. Let me know of any others you want us to touch. I have two helpers so we can get it all done.

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American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

Longview Power (WV)

National Pork Producers Council

National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association

Congressional Coal Caucus

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Edison Electric Institute

National Mining Association

American Chemistry Council

American Fuels & Petrochemical Manufacturers

National Federation of Independent Business

American Forest & Paper Association

To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
From: US EPA Media Relations
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 10:05:18 PM
Subject: Stakeholders Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2017

Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON--American leaders and job creators all across the country today cheered as Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the new EPA Administrator.

Here is some of what they are saying:

U.S. Representative David McKinley (WV)
"Scott Pruitt is the leader America needs at the EPA. He understands that we can protect our environment with common sense policies that don't attack job creators and send thousands of workers, like West Virginia's coal miners, to the unemployment line. In Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt tirelessly fought unwarranted regulations and federal government abuse. I am confident he will bring a pragmatic and balanced approach to the EPA by returning it to its original and lawful mission."

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation
"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment. For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA's harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation. In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

U.S. Senator Shelly Moore Capito (WV)
"Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today's vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA."

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (KS)
"I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt. He understands that while farmers and ranchers make their living off the land, they are also its best stewards. For years we have struggled with an EPA that was not only tone deaf to the needs and concerns of rural America, it was downright adversarial. Producers were burdened with overregulation, which left them feeling ruled, not governed. I am confident Pruitt will lead an EPA that is more respectful of agriculture and will work to restore the trust of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans."

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“After facing record high costs to comply with EPA regulations over the past decade, manufacturers welcomed today’s Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We are confident that under his leadership, Pruitt will restore balance to the way environmental regulations are developed. Manufacturers look forward to him getting to work right away. Manufacturers know it’s possible to have responsible environmental stewardship and robust economic growth at the same time. We are leaders on sustainability and developing emissions-reducing innovations, and as we look to find solutions to the environmental challenges we face, manufacturers will continue to lead the way.”

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U.S. Representative Paul Gosar (AZ)
“President Trump’s selection of Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator is a clear signal that people, not politics, will be the top priority of his administration. Scott Pruitt believes the EPA should work with local and state governments to enact common-sense regulations that will protect the environment without crushing our economy, I enthusiastically support Administrator Pruitt and I know that he will listen to the unique concerns of Western communities and work with Congress to develop positive legislative solutions. The

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"Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is both capable and qualified for the role of EPA Administrator. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he combatted a rogue EPA on numerous occasions. His confirmation will help restore the EPA to an organization that balances environmental protection with practical regulation."

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"NAHB congratulates Scott Pruitt on being confirmed as the nation's next EPA Administrator. Pruitt understands the need for a commonsense regulatory process that is based on sound science, and does not trample states' rights or ignore the economic impact on small businesses. NAHB looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his team to help move towards this more reasonable approach."

R022

To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
From: US EPA Media Relations
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 10:01:20 PM
Subject: Stakeholders Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2017

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R022

If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking here.
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

Bcc: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Cc: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
To: Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
From: Milbourn, Cathy
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 2:35:00 AM
Subject: Re: Links to the EPA newsroom: release, "what they're saying," media advisory

Thank you Julia!

Sent from my iPhone
Cathy Milbourn
Office of Media Relations
202-564-7849
202-420-8648

On Feb 17, 2017, at 7:41 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Scott Pruitt Confirmed and Sworn in as EPA Administrator

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-deliver-remarks-epa-employees

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https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/job-creators-american-energy-producers-farmers-and-elected-officials-cheer-scott

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Julia P. Valentine

Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.

Office of Media Relations

US EPA Headquarters

202.564.2663 desk

202.740.1336 m/txt

To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
From: Milbourn, Cathy
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 12:28:14 AM
Subject: The First What they are saying
R022_2_17_17.docx

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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R022

To: Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
From: US EPA Media Relations
Sent: Fri 2/17/2017 10:05:01 PM
Subject: Stakeholders Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2017

Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

WASHINGTON--American leaders and job creators all across the country today cheered as Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the new EPA Administrator.

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"Scott Pruitt is the leader America needs at the EPA. He understands that we can protect our environment with common sense policies that don't attack job creators and send thousands of workers, like West Virginia's coal miners, to the unemployment line. In Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt tirelessly fought unwarranted regulations and federal government abuse. I am confident he will bring a pragmatic and balanced approach to the EPA by returning it to its original and lawful mission."

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation
"Scott Pruitt's confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America's farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment. For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA's harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation. In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We're optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation's natural resources each and every day."

U.S. Senator Shelly Moore Capito (WV)
"Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today's vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA."

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"I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt. He understands that while farmers and ranchers make their living off the land, they are also its best stewards. For years we have struggled with an EPA that was not only tone deaf to the needs and concerns of rural America, it was downright adversarial. Producers were burdened with overregulation, which left them feeling ruled, not governed. I am confident Pruitt will lead an EPA that is more respectful of agriculture and will work to restore the trust of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans."

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R022

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Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

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R022

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Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: Wed 2/22/2017 4:56:43 PM
Subject: NRDC FOIA of EPA press release

Hello,

I hope your day is going well. I'm the new oil and gas policy reporter for Politico Pro. I was wondering if anyone at the EPA could chat briefly about the FOIA request the NRDC issued earlier asking for the authors for the EPA's press releases announcing the confirmation of Scott Pruitt. Does the EPA have a reaction to the request? If someone could give me a call at the phone number below, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

PoliticoPro, oil and gas reporter

Office: 703-647-8775

mobile: 313-473-0537

@bjlefebvre

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Mon 2/20/2017 2:49:36 PM
Subject: Re: GEORGE Fwd: Pruitt press release

got it, thank you

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Julia P. Valentine

Acting Director

Office of Media Relations

US EPA Headquarters

202.564.2663 desk

202.740.1336 m/txt

From: Hull, George
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2017 8:55:45 PM
To: Valentine, Julia
Subject: Re: GEORGE Fwd: Pruitt press release

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 19, 2017, at 1:27 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

George,

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Thanks

Julia P. Valentine
Office of Media Relations
202.564.2663
Sent from USEPA iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "phil.millam@gmail.com" <phil.millam@gmail.com>
Date: February 19, 2017 at 10:44:01 AM EST
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt press release

Are you shitting me? Are you a public information office or a bunch of shit-spinning political hacks.

You could have issued a press release which attempted to reassure the employees and public that Mr. Pruitt would do his job. Instead, you cherry picked a bunch of "positive" comments from the industries EPA is supposed to regulate, totally ignoring the issues raised in his confirmation hearings.

I'm sure I'll be seeing another press release which quotes some of Mr. Pruitt's detractors, which are many.

Shame!

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Sun 2/19/2017 6:27:11 PM
Subject: GEORGE Fwd: Pruitt press release

George,

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Sent from USEPA iPhone

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
Cc: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]; Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 7:17:47 PM
Subject: Re: Links to the EPA newsroom: release, "what they're saying," media advisory

Of course!

And here's the link to today's "More ...what they're saying"

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/morewhat-they-are-saying-about-administrator-pruitt-0

Julia P. Valentine
Office of Media Relations
202.564.2663
Sent from USEPA iPhone

On Feb 17, 2017, at 10:07 PM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes indeed, thank you Julia!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 17, 2017, at 9:35 PM, Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you Julia!

Sent from my iPhone
Cathy Milbourn
Office of Media Relations
202-564-7849
202-420-8648

On Feb 17, 2017, at 7:41 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

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Julia P. Valentine

Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.

Office of Media Relations

US EPA Headquarters

202.564.2663 desk

202.740.1336 m/txt

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Keith Hayden
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 6:11:15 PM
Subject: News release touting Pruitt nomination

Stop wasting everyone's time with these sorry news releases. The list of people you trotted out in support of the confirmation are a disgrace and only undermine the legacy of a wonderful agency. I'm not sure how the person responsible for this press release managed to avoid throwing up all over their keyboard.

To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Cc: Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Sat 2/18/2017 3:07:25 AM
Subject: Re: Links to the EPA newsroom: release, "what they're saying," media advisory

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Sent from my iPhone

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Cc: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]; Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Tue 2/21/2017 11:47:56 PM
Subject: Administrator Arrival Actions and Results

Doug and John,

Just wanted to share some summary information on steps leading up to and through the Administrator's arrival today. Below the actions from Office of Public Affairs you will find articles covering Administrator Pruitt's speech today. Thanks, George

Press Outreach:

- Sent out Confirmation Press Release twice on 2/17.
- Sent out "What They are Saying" Releases on 2/17 and 2/18.
- Sent out Media Advisory for Administrator Speech on 2/17 and 2/21.
- Sent out Press Release on Administrator's Speech on 2/21.
- Responded to numerous press inquiries related to confirmation and speech.

Social Media Posts:

- Social media posts (throughout the weekend as well)
- 2 Instagram
- 10 Facebook posts (main account)
- 4 Facebook posts (administrator account)
- 8 tweets (main account)
- 6 tweets (administrator account)

Web Updates:

- Homepage,
- About EPA,

•□□□□□□□□ Administrator Bio page,

•□□□□□□□□ Current Leadership page,

•□□□□□□□□ Created 'photos' and 'videos' pages for staff event,

•□□□□□□□□ Created and managed the 'live' streaming page through the event

Photos and Video:

•□□□□□□□□ Photographed official portrait

Green Room Event:

•□□□□□□□□ Worked with OEI (for two weeks) to test and add web streaming capability for YouTube live

•□□□□□□□□ Official portraits taken and posted to OM galleries, White House badge photo

•□□□□□□□□ Staging and break down of Green Room for live event

•□□□□□□□□ Web stream of live event via YouTube

•□□□□□□□□ Live on EPAtv national Channel One

•□□□□□□□□ Phone conference call with 1400 listeners.

•□□□□□□□□ Processed and posted events photos for both external and internal viewers

•□□□□□□□□ Processed video of full event posted to YouTube for external viewers

•□□□□□□□□ Processed video of full event posted to OM intranet site for internal viewers

•□□□□□□□□ Edited two social media video clips posted to YouTube

•□□□□□□□□ Prepared three infographics featuring Administrator quotes provided for social media posting

Internal Communications:

•□□□□□□□□ Developed four main products to support Administrator Pruitt's arrival – intranet banner, mass mailer announcing event and logistics, article for the internal newsletter, and EPA

express post.

•□□□□□□□□ Drafted and posted intranet banner:

o Provided graphics support to develop multiple versions (5-6) of the intranet banner, working with three separate images and a few different quotes.

▪· Coordinated with OWC and Liz Pucci to ensure consistent look/feel/tone of images and messages with external comms/social media and digital signs being used throughout HQ.

▪· Spearheaded a quote for the banner that was customized for internal consumption.

o Coordinated with intranet POCs across the agency to ensure posting of banner on local intranet sites.

•□□□□□□□□ Drafted and distributed mass mailer

o Drafted and revised mass mailer announcing event, managing input on both the substantive message and the logistics.

•□□□□□□□□ Initiated procurement of sign language interpreters.

•□□□□□□□□ Drafted and distributed newsletter

o Reviewed press release and recommended direction for newsletter article.

o Drafted article.

o Provided graphic support to tailor initial image for use in article, and reworked the image multiple times.

o Reworked article to include link to video.

•□□□□□□□□ EPA Express post (LAN bulletin)

o Drafted post, which we'll push out tomorrow and continue to amplify this week.

Coverage of Administrator Pruitt's Speech: Reuters, Time, Fiscal Times, Fox News, InsideEPA, Wall Street Journal, Buzzfeed News, Mashable, Business Insider, Argus Media, Bloomberg, The Hill, Washington Post, Huffington Post, CNN, The Guardian, LA Times, Bloomberg BNA, Politico, E&E News, Forbes, Washington Examiner, Washington Times, CNBC

Reuters

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-epa-idUSKBN1601Q3

New U.S. environmental chief says agency can also be pro jobs

By Timothy Gardner 2/21/17, 4:23PM

The new head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Tuesday that America need not choose between jobs and the environment, in a nod to the energy industry as the White House prepares executive orders that could come as soon as this week to roll back Obama-era regulation.

"I believe that we as an agency, and we as a nation, can be both pro-energy and jobs, and pro-environment," Scott Pruitt said in his first address to staff. "We don't have to choose between the two."

Critics of the agency have complained that regulations ushered in by former President Barack Obama have killed thousands of energy jobs by imposing restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions and by limiting areas open to coal mining and oil drilling.

But Democrats, environmental advocates and many of the EPA's current and former staff worry President Donald Trump's appointment of Pruitt signals a reversal in America's progress cleaning air and water and in fighting global climate change.

Pruitt sued the agency he now leads more than a dozen times while attorney general of Oklahoma to stop federal environmental rules, and has expressed doubts about the science behind climate change.

He struck a conciliatory tone in his address, saying he would "listen, learn and lead" and that he valued civil discussion and the contributions of career staff.

Trump is expected to sign executive orders aimed at reshaping U.S. environmental policy as early as this week, the Washington Post reported. He would instruct the Department of the Interior to lift a ban on new coal mining leases on federal lands and would require the EPA to ease greenhouse gas emissions curbs on electric utilities, according to the report.

The orders would also require the EPA to change Obama's Waters of the United States rule that details which U.S. waterways fall under federal environmental protection, according to the report.

The White House did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the Washington Post story.

Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate last week after contentious hearings that focused on his record as top prosecutor of oil- and gas-producing state Oklahoma.

"Pruitt has been a shill for the fossil fuel industry his entire career, and there's no reason to believe he's going to stop now," said League of Conservation Voters senior vice president

Tiernan Sittenfeld.

But many Republican lawmakers view Pruitt as a refreshing change at the top of an agency they have long accused of federal overreach.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Both Trump and Pruitt have expressed doubts about climate change, and Trump vowed during his 2016 campaign for the White House to pull the United States out of a global pact to fight it.

Trump has promised to slash environmental regulation ushered in by Obama, and to help bolster the drilling and mining industries, but without hurting air and water quality.

A spokeswoman for the American Petroleum Institute, which represents oil and gas companies, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Before Pruitt's confirmation, some 800 former EPA staff signed a letter urging senators to reject him, and around 30 current EPA staff joined a protest set up by the environmental group Sierra Club in Chicago.

Liz Purchia, who headed EPA public affairs during the Obama administration, said Pruitt may struggle to get staff to quickly dismantle regulations. Accomplishing agency priorities was "no easy task" when political appointees and career workers at the EPA agreed most of the time in the Obama years, Purchia said. "Let's see how well they do getting staff, who feel disrespected, to follow them."

Democrats had sought to delay Pruitt's nomination over questions about his ties to the oil industry in Oklahoma.

In Oklahoma, a state judge ruled last week that he will have to turn over thousands of emails between his office and energy companies by Tuesday after a watchdog group, the Center for Media and Democracy, sued for their release.

The judge will review and perhaps hold back some of the emails before releasing them, a court clerk said.

(Reporting by Timothy Gardner; Writing by Richard Valdmanis; Editing by Howard Goller and Alistair Bell)

Time

http://time.com/4676732/donald-trump-epa-executive-orders/

President Trump Is Expected to Make a Significant Rollback to EPA Regulations

By Justin Worland 2/21/17

President Donald Trump is expected to announce his most significant moves yet to roll back environmental regulations this week as his newly confirmed pick to lead the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) enters office.

Trump is readying multiple executive orders to roll back several key EPA regulations including the central Obama-era policy addressing climate change, according to reports in several outlets. The executive orders would not undo the policies immediately but would direct the agency to begin the long process required of undoing federal regulation.

The Clean Power Plan, former President Obama's main policy aimed at addressing climate change, ranks high among the likely targets of Trump's actions. The regulation requires states to come up with plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, a policy that is widely expected to hasten the transition away from coal-fired power plants.

Trump promised repeatedly to undo the Clean Power Plan on the campaign trail, though the process will take require more than a simple stroke of a pen. Many environmental policy experts have speculated on how Trump might try to achieve that goal following his election win in November. The administration could have refused to defend the rule in court or asked Congress to pass a law amending the Clean Air Act, which was used to issue the rule in the first place. But the use of executive order suggests the administration will instead take the most straight-forward option of simply unraveling the rule, a years-long process that will almost certainly result in litigation.

But Trump will have a capable ally implementing his order at the EPA. Administrator Scott Pruitt, who took office last Friday, has gained extensive knowledge and experience with the intricacies of EPA regulation at least in part through his 14 lawsuits against the agency as Oklahoma's attorney general. Environmental law experts say that his expertise will help the Trump administration navigate a bureaucracy that might otherwise flummox an agency outsider. "He's got some experience and knows how to get things done in government," said Brendan Collins , an environmental lawyer at the firm Ballard Spahr, prior to Pruitt's confirmation. "That is something that may distinguish him."

Pruitt has not yet laid out detailed priorities for the agency, but in remarks on Tuesday he cited federalism and the rule of law as guiding principles. Presumably Trump's orders, which could come as soon as Wednesday, will fill in the blanks. "Process matters," Pruitt said in address to the agency's career employees. "Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate."

Other targets of Trump's executive orders could include U.S. participation in the landmark on Paris Agreement climate change. Trump vowed to renegotiate the deal or pull out it altogether last year but softened his tone after winning the election. Because the agreement is not a formal treaty, the president has the right to withdraw. But such a move cannot occur until 2019, three years after the measure took effect. Reports last month suggested that Trump might sign an executive order calling for a reevaluation of a wide range of United Nations measures that could include the Paris Agreement rather than pulling out full stop now. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said he supports the climate deal.

Another executive order is expected to target the Water of the United States rule, a 2015 policy that classifies which bodies of water are under federal protection. Critics have said the government lacks the authority to regulate many of the bodies included in the rule and argued that it impedes economic development.

The executive orders will build on a series of actions taken by Republicans in Congress to undo environmental regulations issued by the Obama administration in the final months of his presidency including a measure that protects streams from coal debris. Undoing those measures required only a majority vote in Congress and the approval of the president under the Congressional Review Act.

Fiscal Times

http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2017/02/21/EPA-Chief-s-Magical-Thinking-Push-Energy-Production-and-Protect-Planet

EPA Chief's Magical Thinking: Push Energy Production and Protect the Planet

By Eric Pianin 2/21/17

The Trump administration offered a foretaste of its environmental policy with a speech on Tuesday by Scott Pruitt, the new Environmental Protection Agency administrator. Pruitt vowed to do as much to promote energy production and job creation as he would to protect against climate change.

Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general and a close ally of the fossil fuel industry who made a career of challenging EPA's clean air and water regulations, spelled out his management philosophy during his first speech to the agency's15,000 employees.

Related: The Senate Just Confirmed the EPA's Arch Enemy to Run the Agency

"I believe that we as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs, and pro-environment, that we don't have to choose between the two," Pruitt said during a relatively brief speech from EPA's headquarters.

"I think our nation has been better than any nation in the world at making sure that we do the job of protecting natural resources and protecting our environment, while also respecting the economic growth and jobs our nation seeks to have," he said.

Pruitt, 48, used his position as state attorney general to sue the EPA at least 14 times – frequently in tandem with major fossil fuel companies that supported his elections. He is widely viewed as the chief architect of the assault against former President Barack Obama's climate change policies that were aimed at sharply reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's aging power plants.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that President Trump is preparing executive orders designed to curtail Obama-era policies on climate change and water pollution.

Related: A Climate Change Doubter Will Overhaul the EPA in Trump's Administration

One of the orders will instruct the EPA to begin rewriting the 2015 regulation that limits greenhouse gas emissions from existing, coal-fired electric utilities. It also would order the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management to cancel a moratorium on federal coal leasing.

The other order will instruct the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to revamp the 2015 Waters of the United States rule that applies to 60 percent of the water bodies in the country. That regulation – which was issued under the 1972 Clean Water Act – gives the federal government authority over wetlands, rivers and streams as well as major water bodies, according to *The Post*.

Pruitt didn't go into any details of the administration's planned policy shift. Instead, he outlined the principles that will guide his tenure at the EPA, such as altering the regulatory process, adhering more closely to congressional mandates and deferring more to the states in enforcing environmental laws and regulations.

"Regulations ought to make things regular," Pruitt said. "Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what's expected of them, so they can plan, and allocate resources to comply."

E&E News

http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2017/02/21/stories/1060050376

'He didn't allay people's fears today' – union leader

By Kevin Bogardus 2/21/17

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt left unanswered questions for career employees today in his first speech as agency chief.

Pruitt made a plea for civility and touted his beliefs in the rule of law and states' rights, but he failed to offer details on the Trump administration's plans for the agency, leaving EPA staff anxious about what comes next.

Joe Edgell, senior vice president for National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 280, told E&E News that he noticed what Pruitt didn't say in his speech.

"He didn't say we're not going to shrink the agency. He didn't say we're not going to fire people," Edgell said. "He didn't allay people's fears today."

NTEU Chapter 280 represents EPA professional employees who work out of the Washington headquarters.

"We were encouraged that he wanted to talk to and listen before making decisions," Edgell said. "Taking him at his word, we were encouraged by that."

Some EPA staffers were more sanguine in response to Pruitt's speech.

"There was no talk about executive orders or anything else," one longtime employee said. "What you saw is what you got. We will have to see what happens from here."

John O'Grady, president of American Federation of Government Employees Council 238, which represents thousands of EPA employees, said he appreciated Pruitt's offer of civility. But he noted that Pruitt's focus on the power of states when it comes to protecting the environment might not be doable, considering the scarce resources available for regulators outside the federal government.

"Federalism is one that stuck out like a sore thumb," O'Grady said. "If we pushed environmental protection, environmental enforcement to the states, how are they going to get it done?"

O'Grady said he expects big changes at the agency during Pruitt's tenure.

"I say nothing is off the table, just because they didn't address it in this speech," O'Grady said. "They are definitely going to go after shrinking the federal workforce, going to go after EPA and going to go after federal unions. There is no question about that."

Pruitt spoke in the Rachel Carson Green Room at EPA's headquarters (*Greenwire*, Feb. 21).

Members of the administration's "beachhead" team, including Don Benton, the agency's senior White House adviser, were spotted milling around before Pruitt came to the podium. Another team member, David Schnare, sat between acting Deputy Administrator Mike Flynn and Catherine McCabe, formerly the acting chief, off to Pruitt's left during the speech.

EPA employees were invited to attend Pruitt's speech and were asked to RSVP to reserve their seat, according to an agencywide email — subject line: "Meet Administrator Pruitt" — obtained by E&E News. They could also watch the EPA chief's speech online or listen over the phone.

Pruitt echoed many of his thoughts already shared during his confirmation hearing and a recent *Wall Street Journal* interview, including that the agency can be pro-energy and pro-environment. In his speech, Pruitt quoted John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, which led to a fierce response from Michael Brune, the group's executive director.

"John Muir is rolling over in his grave at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA," Brune said in a statement.

Pruitt comes to EPA during a tumultuous time.

President Trump had harsh words for EPA on the campaign trail, saying he wanted to roll back many of its regulations and pare down the agency. The nomination of Pruitt, a vocal EPA critic who sued the agency over several of those rules as Oklahoma attorney general, only seemed to intensify environmental opposition to Trump and his administration.

Pruitt underwent a lengthy confirmation process that ended Friday as the Senate approved him on a mostly party-line vote of 52-46. Pruitt was confirmed by the Senate with the most recorded "no" votes of any EPA administrator in the history of the agency, according to an E&E News review of congressional records.

Now as administrator, Pruitt said it was time for "a beginning" as he and agency staff get to know each other at EPA.

"In fact, you don't know me hardly at all other than what you've read in the newspaper and seen on the news," Pruitt said.

He added, "I look forward to sharing the rest of the story with you as we spend time together. This is a beginning. It's a beginning for us to spend time and discuss certain principles by which I think this agency should conduct itself."

Fox News

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/02/21/epas-pruitt-urges-officials-to-avoid-regulatory-abuses-in-first-speech-to-staff.html

EPA's Pruitt urges officials to avoid regulatory 'abuses' in first speech to staff

By Barnini Chakraborty 2/21/17

The new head of the EPA set a decidedly more pro-business tone for the agency Tuesday during his first remarks to rank-and-file employees, promoting a balance between protecting the environment and the economy -- and warning officials to "avoid" regulatory "abuses."

"We as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs and we can be pro-environment, and we don't have to choose between the two," newly confirmed Administrator Scott Pruitt told a group of Environmental Protection Agency employees.

Pruitt's address follows a heated confirmation process where more than 800 former and current staff members actively campaigned against him. Pruitt, as Oklahoma's attorney general, fought the EPA in court and accused the agency of routinely over-regulating businesses. He vowed that as the agency's new leader, he would work to scale back its authority

"Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what's expected of them, so that they can plan and allocate resources to comply," he told the crowd.

Tensions with staff, however, could remain high as Pruitt takes over.

In addition to the letter signed by hundreds of employees asking senators to pull their support of Pruitt, more than two-dozen current EPA staff joined a protest set up by the Sierra Club in Chicago against him. The strong internal opposition could mean a standoff down the line

between career EPA employees and the man leading them.

Pruitt was narrowly confirmed to head up the agency last week after a lengthy floor debate in the Senate. Democrats blasted him for vowing to roll back Obama-era environmental regulations as well as his past statements challenging the science behind climate change. Republicans countered that Pruitt was the right man to scale back the size and reach of the EPA.

Slapping restraints on the EPA could come sooner rather than later.

On Tuesday, The Washington Post reported that President Trump could head to EPA headquarters this week to sign a pair of executive orders.

One order would instruct the Department of the Interior to lift a ban on new coal mining leases on federal land and instruct the EPA to rewrite a 2015 regulation that limits greenhouse-gas emissions from existing electric utilities.

The second order reportedly would instruct the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to make significant changes to the Waters of the United States rule which gives the federal government authority over rivers, streams and wetlands. The regulation, issued under the 1972 Clean Water Act, applies to 60 percent of the water bodies in the United States.

As Oklahoma's attorney general, Pruitt was party to lawsuits for both the Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the United States rule. In all, Pruitt sued the EPA 14 times before becoming its administrator.

Pruitt faced additional questions during the confirmation process that extended beyond his history fighting the agency.

On the eve of his confirmation vote, Pruitt was ordered by an Oklahoma judge to hand over thousands of emails between his office and fossil fuel companies like Koch Industries and the National Coal Council to the Center for Media and Democracy, which requested the collection of emails in 2014.

Pruitt and the Oklahoma attorney general's office are accused of ignoring multiple open records requests. Oklahoma County District Judge Aletia Haynes Timmons said "there was an abject failure to provide prompt and reasonable access to documents requested."

So far, only 411 of the more than 3,000 emails CMD requested have been handed over. The 411 were turned over last week. The open records request was made two years ago.

Despite being ordered to turn over the emails, Pruitt and his former office can withhold those they deem exempt under the state's records law.

InsideEPA

https://insideepa.com/daily-news/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-details-priorities-principles

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Details Priorities, Principles

2/21/17

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, sworn in Feb. 17 shortly after his Senate confirmation, has begun to detail some of his priorities and principles for his time in office.

During a Feb. 21 address to agency employees, Pruitt largely reiterated the principles he outlined during his Senate confirmation for how he plans to approach his new role, including considering the role of states, the need for acting with civility on contentious matters, finding solutions to difficult problems and more.

For example, he said that the agency needs to follow a set procedure when developing rules to provide certainty to industry. "Regulations ought to make things regular," Pruitt said. "They ought to give certainty to those we regulate. They ought to know what is expected of them so they can plan and allocate resources to comply."

He said he would seek to "avoid abuses" of those processes. That means ending "using the guidance process to do rulemaking or regulation through litigation."

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* published Feb. 18, Pruitt added that a lack of regulatory certainty undermines economic growth. "The greatest threat we've had to economic growth has been that those in industry don't know what is expected of them. Rules come that are outside of statutes. Rules get changed midway. It creates vast uncertainty and paralysis, and re-establishing a vigorous commitment to rule of law is going to help a lot."

During his address at EPA, Pruitt also emphasized his commitment to work with states. "Federalism matters," he said. "Congress has been prescriptive, in many instances, in providing a robust role with the states."

He said he talked with Catherine McCabe, who served as EPA's acting administrator pending his

confirmation, about the regional offices and “how important they are in partnering with [departments of environmental quality] at the state level with respect to enforcement and other related issues.

“We engender the trust of those at the state level, they see us as partners in the mission and not as adversaries. Process is important.”

In his interview with the *Journal*, Pruitt also criticized the Obama administration for preempting state efforts to comply with federal requirements and suggested maintaining the portion of EPA's $8 billion budget that is directed to states, which is about half. “This is the front line of a lot of the work on air and water quality and infrastructure and it is very important that money continue,” he said.

Policy Priorities

He also told the *Journal* that he plans to make cleaning up Superfund sites, attaining air quality standards and improving water infrastructure as his top priorities. “Under current measurements, some 40 [percent] of the country is still in nonattainment” for criteria pollutants, he said, adding there are also “1,300 Superfund sites and some of them have been on the list for more than three decades.”

In a similar vein, he suggested that he hopes to complete cleanups of the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington state and the Hudson River in New York. “Think of how tangible it would be to the citizens,” of those states, he said.

On water infrastructure, Pruitt said he plans to advance the issue with the president. “When we talk about investing in infrastructure, we need to look more broadly than bridges and roads,” he said, citing lead contamination in Flint, MI, and threats to California dams.

But even as he detailed an affirmative agenda, Pruitt also defended Trump administration plans to roll back the Obama administration's greenhouse gas rules for power plants and Clean Water Act jurisdiction rule, saying both measures should be withdrawn because “the courts have seriously called into question the legality of those rules.”

He also suggested taking a broader review of whether EPA should be regulating GHGs at all. Part of the rulemaking process to withdraw the Clean Power Plan will consider whether EPA even possesses the tools, under the Clean Air Act, to address climate change.

"It's a fair question to ask if we do, or whether there in fact needs to be a congressional response to the climate issue," he said.

But he also downplayed suggestions that he would neuter the agency. "There is no reason why EPA's role should ebb or flow based on a particular administration, or a particular administrator," he said. "Agencies exist to administer the law. Congress passes statutes, and those statutes are very clear on the job EPA has to do. We're going to do that job.

"There is a time and place to sometimes resolve litigation. . . . But don't use the judicial process to bypass accountability," Pruitt said, suggesting he would not use sue-and-settle tactics now that a move conservative administration will have to defend its policies: "regulation through litigation is simply wrong...we need to end this practice of issuing guidance, to get around the rule-making procedure. Or rushing things through, playing games on the timing."

Wall Street Journal

https://www.wsj.com/articles/scott-pruitt-signals-dramatic-shift-in-epa-priorities-1487708036

Scott Pruitt Signals Dramatic Shift in EPA Priorities

By Amy Harder 2/21/17, 3:13PM

WASHINGTON—In his first speech as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt stressed a dramatic change of priorities at the agency, stating the importance of the agency's communication and relationship with businesses but giving few details about policy changes.

Mr. Pruitt didn't touch on the hard-fought issues that arose during his confirmation process, including his work as Oklahoma attorney general suing the EPA and comments President Donald Trump has made about nearly eliminating the agency.

The new administrator focused instead on his general aspirations for the agency, such as giving

businesses certainty regarding environmental rules and striking an appropriate balance with states when it comes to regulations.

"Regulations ought to make things regular," said Mr. Pruitt, repeating a line he used at his confirmation hearing in January. "Those that we regulate ought to know what they can expect from us."

That is a clear difference in message and focus from the EPA under President Barack Obama, which emphasized first what the agency was trying to protect with its regulations on clean air and water.

Mr. Pruitt's speech at agency headquarters, which went a little over 10 minutes, was aimed at striking a balance between the administrator's mandate from Mr. Trump to roll back Mr. Obama's environmental regulations and persistent concerns from inside and outside the agency about that very mandate. It didn't include questions from either media or the assembled EPA staffers in Washington. EPA employs about 15,000 people across the U.S.; thousands were able to watch the speech online.

"You can't lead unless you listen. I seek to listen and learn and lead with you to address these issues we face as a nation," Mr. Pruitt said.

Mr. Trump's plans for EPA have attracted particular attention, given his stated goal of making wholesale changes at the agency. Current and former officials of the agency had publicly urged the defeat of Mr. Pruitt, saying they were concerned about his close relations with the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma. The Senate narrowly confirmed him on Friday mostly along party lines.

Mr. Pruitt's comments Tuesday didn't ease some critics' concerns.

"Pruitt told EPA staff they may not know him except for what they have read, but perception is reality," said Liz Purchia, a former EPA communications director under Mr. Obama. "Trump's team spent the entire campaign and the last few months railing against EPA's existence, its staff and its purpose."

Mr. Pruitt didn't mention the Trump administration's imminent plans to start undoing two of the biggest rules the agency has issued over the past eight years: one cutting carbon emissions from power plants and another bringing more waters under federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Trump is expected to soon sign at least two executive orders to begin the process of scrapping both of those regulations, along with other Obama-era climate regulations, according to several people familiar with the plans. Both efforts would take months and are likely to face legal challenges.

The executive order focusing on power-plant emissions is expected to be framed as an attempt to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy while promoting domestic energy production, two of Mr. Trump's campaign promises. Supporters of the regulation say it is important for fighting climate change.

Other policies likely to be targeted in the executive orders is an Interior Department temporary

ban on coal leasing and a measure cutting emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas, from oil and natural gas wells on federal lands. Congress is already in the process of repealing that regulation.

Buzzfeed News

https://www.buzzfeed.com/dinograndoni/trumps-new-epa-chief-promises-to-pull-back-environment-rules?utm_term=.qxRlB2DjB#.frne7Xva7

Trump's New EPA Chief Promises to Pull Back Environment Rules in First Agency Speech

By Dino Grandoni 2/21/17, 1:50PM

WASHINGTON — In a brief introductory speech at the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters on Tuesday, the agency's new leader, Scott Pruitt, sought to reassure leery staff of his vision for federal environmental protection under Donald Trump — one that involved the agency becoming both "pro-energy and jobs and pro-environment."

"Most of you don't know me very well," Pruitt told roughly 100 employees gathered at EPA headquarters on Tuesday, along with thousands more watching in Washington and at regional EPA offices though the agency's internal television network.

Noting past news stories of his environmental views that have not put him in a flattering light, Pruitt added: "I look forward to sharing the rest of the story with you."

During his 12 minutes of remarks, Pruitt made clear that he wished to cede responsibility for environmental protection back to the states and limit the role of the EPA strictly to what Congress has instructed it to do, saying that regulations must be "need to be tethered to statue."

"When we do that," Pruitt told employees, "we avoid he uncertainty of litigation."

Pruitt knows about litigation against the EPA: As Oklahoma's attorney general, he led more than dozen lawsuits against the EPA on that state's behalf. During his confirmation hearing, Pruitt refused to recuse himself from the eight ongoing lawsuits Oklahoma has filed against the EPA.

Still, the Trump administration does not want to wait for Congress to act. This week, the White House is readying executive actions seeking to undo Obama-era rules meant to curtail water pollution and the release of greenhouse gases, the *Washington Post* reported

Going into more detail than he did during his speech, Pruitt told the *The Wall Street Journal* in his first interview as EPA administrator that he expects to quickly withdraw the US from Clean Power Plan, Obama's landmark proposal for curbing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

"There's a very simple reason why this needs to happen," Pruitt said. "Because the courts have seriously called into question the legality of those rules."

But the Supreme Court, in 2007, has already ruled that EPA is obligated to regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Pruitt delivered his remarks in the agency's ornate Rachel L. Carson Great Hall, named after the scientist who authored the 1962 book *Silent Spring,* which kickstarted the US environmental movement and ultimately led to the creation of the EPA eight years later.

Behind the cameras were security personnel from the Department of Homeland Security — whose presence at the headquarters, according to two EPA employees, was a first for the agency. Pruitt is expected to ask for an around-the-clock security detail as administrator, according to E&E News.

At the end of his speech, Pruitt quoted another famous environmentalist — John Muir, the 19th century activist and founder of the Sierra Club — as a way to reassure employees that his business-friendly approach is compatible with the agency's goal of environmental protection.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread," Pruitt said, quoting Muir.

The current head of the Sierra Club, Michael Brune, objected to the name drop.

"John Muir is rolling over in his grave," Brune said in a statement after the speech, "at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA."

Mashable

http://mashable.com/2017/02/21/scott-pruitt-speech-epa-climate-resistance/#oslu2pflKqqA

EPA's Scott Pruitt meets his hasrshest critics: the employees of his own agency

By Andrew Freedman 2/21/17

Usually, new administrators at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are welcomed at headquarters without too much fanfare. That is, until today.

Scott Pruitt — the new EPA administrator nominated to the position by President Donald Trump — gave his welcome address to his agency Tuesday after garnering more "no" votes on the Senate floor than any other EPA nominee since the agency was founded in 1970.

In taking on the job, Pruitt is facing a daunting challenge: stiff resistance from within the agency itself, with current and former employees having protested his nomination, with some taking the nearly unheard of step of openly advocating for senators to vote "no" when it was brought to the Senate floor.

For some scientists in the agency, his first speech was probably the equivalent of Voldemort himself walking into Hogwarts and assuming the top job.

Pruitt openly doubts mainstream climate science findings, including that human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases are the primary cause of global temperature increases.

Pruitt was confirmed only hours after a judge in Oklahoma ordered the release of nearly 3,000 emails between Pruitt and fossil fuel companies from his time as attorney general. Those emails are due to be released by the end of the day on Tuesday.

In his first speech to agency employees on Tuesday, Pruitt spoke of federal environmental regulations as needing to be tailored for the benefit of regulated parties, rather than to protect the public.

“Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulations exist to give certainty to the regulated,” he said.

Pruitt clearly aims to shrink the agency's mandate and footprint, and is expected to quickly move to reverse the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which regulates global warming-pollutants emitted from coal-fired power plants, along with a landmark water pollution regulation.

As Oklahoma attorney general, Pruitt sued the EPA more than a dozen times, including in opposition to the Clean Power Plan.

"Regulations exist to give certainty to the regulated"

Pruitt did little to antagonize the EPA rank and file in his speech, saying, "civility is something that I believe in very much." But he also didn't say much that would immediately quell the internal resistance to him, either.

“This environment in which we live today, forgive the reference, but it is a very toxic environment,” he said. “I seek to be a good listener.”

Pruitt even went so far as quoting famous naturalist John Muir, who founded the Sierra Club, in his comments.

In response, the Sierra Club put out this blistering statement: "John Muir is rolling over in his grave at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA."

A lot is at stake if and when Pruitt and the Trump administration move to dismantle the Clean Power Plan. The Obama administration had turned to the EPA to lead the charge on global warming, and without other rules to drive down emissions, getting rid of the Clean Power Plan would jeopardize America's ability to meet the emissions targets it agreed to under the Paris Climate Agreement.

Pruitt did not mention climate change, or any other specific environmental challenge, in his speech, instead giving general nods to the need to return more of a role for environmental protection to the states.

“We can be both pro-energy and jobs and pro-environment,” he said.

Business Insider

http://www.businessinsider.com/scott-pruitt-epa-first-day-speech-2017-2

Trump's new EPA chief barely mentioned the environment in his first address to agency

By Rafi Letzter 2/21/17

Scott Pruitt, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) critic who recently took over the agency as part of the Trump administration, gave his first address in his new position Tuesday.

The former Oklahoma Attorney General mentioned "important, monumental issues with respect to our future and our environment," but avoided a number of issues central to the EPA's mission — such as air and water protection, cleanups, public health, and environmental monitoring.

Pruitt, who sued the EPA 14 times in his previous role to fight regulations and cleanup efforts, instead emphasized "abuses" of the agency's rule-making powers.

He called on employees to take a stricter, more limited interpretation of the agency's powers.

"The process we engage in adopting regulations is important, because it shows we take our role seriously," he said, returning to a theme he emphasized during his confirmation hearings.

"Regulations ought to make things regular ... that's the job of a regulator," Pruitt said.

This is the same phrase Pruitt used during his confirmation hearings, during which he suggested that the EPA had failed in its responsibility to create a predictable economic climate for business.

Kimberley Strassel of The Wall Street Journal wrote Friday that Pruitt's passion seems to be neither environmental safety nor deregulation. Rather, she suggested, he seems like a kind of "EPA originalist," who aims to link the EPA to the tightest possible interpretation of its several congressional mandates.

Pruitt has become the nation's top environmental officer without staking out a clear position on several key environmental issues — including whether greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide should be regulated as pollutants. Nothing in Tuesday's talk cleared up any of his environmental views.

The transition at the EPA before Pruitt's arrival was particularly fraught, with reports of leaks, gag orders, and grant freezes creating uncertainty for people who follow environmental policy or rely on on the EPA for funding.

Pruitt's confirmation was particularly contentious. There were questions about his truth-telling during his hearings and Senate Democrats fought until the last minute to delay a vote until undisclosed emails between Pruitt's Oklahoma office and fossil fuel companies were released by court order.

In what may have been a nod to some of those issues, Pruitt told his new workforce on Tuesday to wait on the "rest of the story" about him, beyond what they might have seen in the press.

He also decried the "toxic environment" in American politics and called for "civility."

"I seek to be a good listener," he said, "You can't lead unless you listen."

Argus Media

http://www.argusmedia.com/news/article/?id=1409088

New EPA leader stresses federalism, agency limits

2/21/17

Washington, 21 February (Argus) — US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Scott Pruitt today signaled a more restrained regulatory posture from the agency, with an increased role for states and a greater recognition of limits on federal authority.

EPA needs to do a better job of providing certainty to regulated industries and must become more cooperative with the state agencies that are often tasked with implementing federal environmental regulations, Pruitt said in brief remarks to agency staff.

Pruitt stressed the need to provide more regulatory certainty by taking a number of steps, including being more transparent in rule-making processes and honoring limits on the authority Congress has given the agency, he said.

"The only authority that any agency has in the executive branch is the authority given to it by Congress," Pruitt said.

When EPA does not heed those limits, it can lead to litigation and more regulatory uncertainty, he said.

In addition, Pruitt said he wants to improve EPA's relations with the states so that they do not view federal regulators as adversaries. "Federalism matters. Congress has been very prescriptive in providing in many instances a very robust role, an important role, for the states," he said.

President Donald Trump chose Pruitt to lead EPA in an effort to reshape an agency that some Republicans say has overstepped its authority from Congress and has published regulations that are impeding economic development. As attorney general for Oklahoma, Pruitt was involved in a number of efforts to overturn EPA regulations issued by former president Barack Obama's administration, including multi-state lawsuits against the Clean Power Plan to reduce CO2 emissions from power plants, mercury regulations and federal ozone air quality standards.

Many of those regulations will likely be targeted for rollbacks or repeals by Pruitt, whom Trump picked for the job in part because of his opposition to Obama's so-called "war on coal."

The Senate confirmed Pruitt last week by a 52-46 vote, largely along party lines. Senate

Democrats had attempted to delay a vote after a judge ruled that the nominee had to hand over thousands of pages of documents related to his correspondence with the fossil fuel industry while attorney general. Pruitt is required to turn over approximately 3,000 documents by today, with more to come before the end of the month.

Despite his hostility to some EPA actions, Pruitt said he is committed to the agency's role in protecting the nation's air and water. "I seek to listen, learn and lead with you," he said.

Bloomberg

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-02-21/trump-s-new-epa-head-woos-skeptical-staff-with-a-new-mission

EPA Chief Woos Staff Skeptical of Tilt to Pro-Energy Mission

By Jennifer A Dlouhy 2/21/17, 1:04PM

President Donald Trump's newly installed environmental chief Scott Pruitt laid out his vision for reshaping the way the federal government safeguards air and water, as he tried to convince skeptical federal employees that a refashioned agency can remain effective.

Pruitt addressed the Environmental Protection Agency's workforce -- including hundreds who had actively battled his confirmation -- on Tuesday, in his first speech since he was sworn in as administrator Friday.

"We as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs and we can be pro-environment, and we don't have to choose between the two," Pruitt said to employees packed inside an auditorium at the EPA's Washington headquarters. His remarks were also streamed to EPA's 15,000-strong workforce nationwide.

Pruitt decried a deeply politicized environment that he said creates obstacles to finding effective solutions. "We deal with very important, monumental issues with respect to our future," he said. "We can do better as a country."

Perhaps more than any other member of Trump's cabinet, Pruitt is at odds with the agency he now leads. He built his political career fighting federal regulations he said stripped power away from states, and as Oklahoma attorney general, joined more than a dozen lawsuits challenging EPA actions by the Obama administration. He also appeared to relish his role as the agency's chief antagonist; an online biography dubbed Pruitt "a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda."

Still, Pruitt has taken pains to emphasize that environmental regulation and economic development can go hand in hand.

In a nearly 12-minute speech that avoided addressing substantive details of EPA policy, Pruitt outlined a "cooperative federalism" approach that gives states a larger role in collaborating with the EPA on environmental matters. Pruitt said he wanted to engender trust among state regulators and carefully follow congressional dictates to write new federal rules that are tethered to the statutes that compel them.

"We need to be open and transparent and objective in how we do rulemaking and make sure we follow the letter of the law as we do so because that would send, I think, a great message to those who are regulated," Pruitt said. "They want to know what's expected of them."

Pruitt sought to soothe unease among the agency's rank and file, with remarks that were measured and focused on process -- far from the bombastic declarations about slashing EPA staff and overhauling its use of science made by former Trump advisers.

Now Pruitt is trying to convince EPA employees that by focusing on core functions, the agency can do a better job keeping pollution out of the air and cleaning toxic chemicals from old industrial sites.

As administrator, Pruitt is positioned to undo some of the same agency regulations he challenged in court, including the Clean Power Plan that slashes greenhouse gas emissions from electricity and the Waters of the U.S. rule that defined which waterways are subject to pollution regulation. Trump administration officials have drafted documents directing Pruitt to begin dismantling those measures, helping fulfill Trump's pledge to eviscerate rules the president has said throttle U.S. energy development.

Some conservatives also are pressing Pruitt to go further and undo the legal underpinning for many Obama-era environmental rules by questioning the scientific basis for them.

Pruitt's efforts will face internal opposition from an agency that made combating climate change its top priority over the past few years.

Scores of EPA scientists, experts and lawyers actively fought Pruitt's nomination, beseeching senators to vote against him and organizing opposition via social media. The union representing agency employees launched an online campaign against Pruitt's agenda under the headline, "Save the EPA." Nearly 800 former EPA officials also signed a letter opposing Pruitt's nomination.

If Pruitt asks the agency's career civil servants to make 180-degree pivots on policy, he may have a hard time getting them to go along, said Kevin Book, managing director of the Washington-based research firm ClearView Energy Partners. It may take years for frustrated civil servants to walk out the door of an agency for good, but in the meantime, they can walk much slower inside it, Book said in an interview.

"You don't get an environmental scientist going to work at the EPA for the privilege of helping to drill more wells," Book said. "They're bound by all of the professional responsibilities and limitations that are imposed by their employer, but they are a force to be reckoned with."

Signs of that resistance have already appeared, with current and former employees setting up Twitter accounts to highlight perceived abuses.

Many agency employees are veterans of presidential transitions and know their fealty is to U.S. law, said Jeff Holmstead, a top EPA official under former President George W. Bush.

"There is a minority -- and I really do think it's a relatively small number -- of people at EPA who

believe their mission is more important than their obligation to the law," Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell LLP, said. That opposition can feed leaks to Congress, the press and the public, he said.

Pruitt spoke Tuesday in the Rachel Carson Green Room, named for a noted marine biologist whose work highlighting the dangers of widespread pesticide use helped drive a global environmental movement.

"You can't lead, unless you listen," Pruitt said, promising to do just that as administrator.

The Hill

http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/320479-new-epa-head-wants-agency-to-be-pro-energy-and-jobs-and-pro

New EPA head: 'We don't have to choose between' jobs and the environment

By Timothy Cama 2/21/17, 1:32PM

The Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief outlined a vision for the agency that places an added focus on economic and job growth.

Scott Pruitt used his first speech to the EPA's 15,000 employees to speak mostly in general terms about his plans for an agency that had been a central target of Republican ire during former President Barack Obama's time in office.

"I believe that we as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs, and pro-environment, that we don't have to choose between the two," Pruitt said in the 11-minute speech from EPA's headquarters.

"I think our nation has been better than any nation in the world at making sure that we do the job of protecting our natural resources and protecting our environment, while also respecting the economic growth and jobs our nation seeks to have," he said.

Pruitt comes into office with an uneasy relationship to the EPA's workforce, most of whom work outside of Washington, D.C.

Employees have publicly protested against Pruitt in places like Chicago and undertook an unprecedented effort to lobby the Senate to reject his nomination.

Pruitt, who was Oklahoma's attorney general until the Senate confirmed him Friday by a vote of 52-46, is a staunch opponent of Obama EPA regulations like the Clean Power Plan and the Clean Water Rule, which were among the targets of the 14 lawsuits he filed against the agency.

The Trump administration is reportedly preparing as soon as this week to sign executive orders to begin undoing both of those regulations.

But instead of laying out specific plans for those rules and others, Pruitt outlined the principles he wants to guide his time at the EPA, like changing the regulatory process, sticking more closely to mandates from Congress and better respecting states, all of which he implied were not done to a high enough degree under Obama.

Among his goals, he said, is to prioritize "certainty" in regulations.

“Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what’s expected of them, so they can plan, and allocate resources to comply,” Pruitt said. “That’s really the job of a regulator.”

He said the regulatory process “needs to be tethered to the statute” and the EPA should “ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level” to be seen as partners with the states, not adversaries.

While Pruitt did not directly confront the opposition to him among the EPA workforce, he called for the agency’s employees to be civil and listen to one another.

“Civility is something that I believe in very much. We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through some very difficult issues, and do so in a very civil manner,” he said.

Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/02/21/pruitt-to-epa-employees-we-dont-have-to-choose-between-jobs-and-the-environment/?utm_term=.8cc027848664

Pruitt to EPA employees: ‘We don’t have to choose’ between jobs and the environment’

By Brady Dennis and Chris Mooney 2/21/17, 1:35PM

In his first full work day as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt made clear Monday that he intends to step back from what he sees as the agency’s regulatory overreach during the Obama administration.

Pruitt, who spent years criticizing and suing the EPA before becoming its newest leader, reiterated an argument he often had made as Oklahoma attorney general.

“The only authority that any agency has in the executive branch is the authority given to it by Congress,” he said during a noon address to employees at the agency headquarters. “We need to respect that. We need to follow that. Because when we do that, guess what happens? We avoid litigation. We avoid the uncertainty of litigation and we reach better ends and outcomes at the end of the day.”

Pruitt himself was the source of some of that legal conflict in recent years, suing the agency more than a dozen times over the course of President Barack Obama's two terms. And those lawsuits, plus his vocal criticism of the EPA's work generally and skepticism about climate change, have triggered palpable concerns among many longtime agency employees.

In many ways, though, the new administrator's remarks before his staff were conciliatory. Pruitt said he had come to listen to them and outlined principles for how he planned to guide the agency, including emphasizing civility and respect for the role of states.

"In this environment we live in this country today … it's a very toxic environment," Pruitt said. "We have jerseys that we put on both politically and otherwise. And that's something, I think, is damaging to finding results and answers."

Pruitt was confirmed Friday afternoon, mostly along partisan lines in the Senate, after a process that featured much criticism of his statements about climate change, his relationships with the fossil-fuel industry and his history of litigation against the agency he's now leading. Two Democrats in the Senate, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, voted for him. One Republican, Susan Collins of Maine, voted against him.

While Republican lawmakers and industry executives welcomed his nomination, it was met with unprecedented opposition from environmental groups and from hundreds of former and current EPA employees, who argued that his track record shows little regard for environmental protection.

Pruitt's remarks were delivered in the Rachel Carson Green Room at the EPA, a large and dramatic wood-paneled room named after the famed environmentalist whose 1962 book, "Silent Spring," helped galvanize a movement that eventually led to the EPA's founding. About 75 EPA employees were on hand — attendance at the event was optional, and staff could also listen or watch online — along with members of the Trump administration and dozens of reporters.

News reports have suggested that President Trump is on the verge of signing a number of executive orders to roll back Obama priorities on the environment, including the Clean Power Plan, which restricts greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, and the Waters of the U.S. regulation. But Pruitt made no explicit mention of planned policy changes in his remarks, instead focusing on what he said were a set of principles by which he would guide the agency.

Pruitt was introduced at the event by Catherine McCabe, who had served as acting administrator until his confirmation. Her remarks about his background did not mention the many occasions when he, as Oklahoma attorney general, had filed lawsuits against the agency.

"Civility is something I believe in very much," Pruitt told the employees gathered. "We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through some difficult issues and do so in a civil manner." He also noted that the "process" and "rule of law" matter greatly at the EPA. By contrast, he did not talk much about the agency's actual goals, such as preserving clean air and clean water.

"Federalism matters," Pruitt continued, pledging to forge close relationships with the states as he carries out his role. But states are likely to be highly divided over any attempt to undo Obama environmental regulations, with states such as Massachusetts, New York and California likely to oppose such efforts through state-level lawsuits much like the ones that Pruitt himself

participated in against Obama's EPA.

At one point, Pruitt actually quoted John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club — which provoked a quick response from the environmental group's executive director, Michael Brune, that "John Muir is rolling over in his grave at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA."

Pruitt also said that there shouldn't be a contradiction between environmental protection and energy production or job creation, a line also often emphasized by President George W. Bush's administration.

"We as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs and pro-environment," Pruitt said. "That we don't have to choose between the two. I think our nation has done better than any nation in the world at making sure we do the job of protecting our natural resources and protecting our environment while also respecting the economic growth and jobs our nation seeks to have."

Overall, the comments were very much in line both with what Pruitt said during his confirmation hearing and the arguments he has made for years during his opposition to EPA regulations under the Obama administration. He has been a leading proponent of the notion that the EPA too often overstepped its legal authority, going beyond the language of the statutes passed by Congress to take aggressive regulatory action. In addition, Pruitt has argued that the agency often infringed on the rights of states to regulate within their own borders.

Pruitt's remarks came shortly before the possible release by the Oklahoma attorney general's office of thousands of his emails from his tenure there, as ordered by a judge on Thursday. The office has not said whether it will comply or appeal.

After introducing him, McCabe gave Pruitt an EPA lapel pin and an EPA hat. The new leader, a former partner of a Triple-A baseball team, said he would wear the latter when going to Washington Nationals games.

Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/pruitt-epa-speech_us_58ac7e76e4b0c4d51057164f

Scott Pruitt Goes After Critics, His Own Staff In First Speech To EPA

By Alexander C. Kaufman 2/21/17, 1:44PM

Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt mentioned a "toxic environment" just once during his first address Tuesday to the embattled agency staff.

But he wasn't talking about industry pollution or conserving nature. He was referring to his critics' political rhetoric.

"Forgive the reference, but it's a very toxic environment," the controversial new administrator said in the speech, which lasted under 20 minutes.

“Civility is something I believe in very much,” he added. “We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through some issues in a civil manner.”

Then, at last, he began to outline his vision for the EPA. He described an agency that prioritized making it easier for polluters to comply with regulations. He promised to listen intently to companies before saddling them with new regulations. He admonished his new employees, some fearing layoffs amid looming budget cuts, for acting outside the agency’s legal mandate and running roughshod over states’ rights.

“Regulations ought to make things regular,” Pruitt said. “Regulations exist to give certainty to those they regulate. Those we regulate ought to know what’s expected of them so they can place and allocate resources to comply.”

He did not mention climate change or environmental destruction.

Pruitt, the former attorney general of Oklahoma, was sworn in last Friday after the Senate voted 52-46 to confirm his nomination. His confirmation came a day after Judge Aletia Haynes Timmons of the District Court of Oklahoma County ruled that the Oklahoma attorney general’s office must turn over more than 2,500 emails and correspondence between Pruitt and oil and gas firms. The ruling was in response to a lawsuit from watchdog group Center for Media and Democracy and the American Civil Liberties Union alleging that his office had violated Oklahoma’s open records law.

“Scott Pruitt’s going to have a lot of questions to answer,” said Nick Surgey, the director of research at the Madison, Wisconsin-based Center for Media and Democracy, referring to the emails. “The head of the Environmental Protection Agency, on day three, is already talking about putting the interests of the environment against the interests of industry.”

Democrats had sought to delay a vote on his confirmation until after those documents were released. Pruitt’s former office is expected to respond by the judge’s Tuesday evening deadline.

Pruitt made his reputation suing the EPA 13 times, repeatedly joining oil, gas and coal players — including Oklahoma Gas & Electric and the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance, an industry-backed group — in filing lawsuits to halt regulations. He forged what The New York Times in 2014 called an “unprecedented, secretive alliance” between Republican attorneys general and oil and gas companies to undermine environmental regulations. In 2011, he allowed Devon Energy, an Oklahoma oil and gas firm, to write a three-page complaint to the EPA under his letterhead, which he signed. Pruitt also championed the rights of Exxon Mobil Corp. in investigations into whether the oil giant committed fraud by covering up evidence that burning fossil fuels changes the climate.

In turn, the fossil fuel industry donated more than $300,000 to Pruitt between 2002 and 2016, and even more money to a political action committee and a super PAC that paid for the former Oklahoma attorney general’s trips to Hawaii and New Orleans.

“I believe we as an agency and we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs and pro-environment,” Pruitt said Tuesday, regurgitating a line he used during his confirmation hearing last month. “We don’t have to choose between the two.”

Pruitt’s contentious confirmation drew scorn from a variety of critics. He even plans to request

an around-the-clock bodyguard from his agency, according to a report by E&E News. A senior energy official at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the country's largest trade group with a history of combatting environmental rules, warned the new administration against repealing a 2009 EPA endangerment finding that classified greenhouse gases as a threat to public health and welfare. The comment underscores growing acceptance of the science of man-made global warming, particularly given that the Chamber's official policy priorities for 2017 "oppose EPA efforts to regulate greenhouse gases under the existing Clean Air Act, including the endangerment finding."

"There's going to be hell to pay from, you know, soccer moms and soccer dads all throughout the country," Christopher Guith, the energy official, said last month, according to a transcript published by the nonprofit Energy and Policy Institute. "People who probably voted for Donald Trump."

President Donald Trump has made slashing environmental restrictions a top priority, and the EPA is a prime target of his regulatory bushwhacking. He tapped Myron Ebell, a once-fringe contrarian who peddles conspiracy theories about climate change, to lead the EPA transition team. Soon after the inauguration, the White House ordered the EPA to freeze grants, putting a vast array of projects and personnel in limbo. That freeze has been lifted, but the White House is considering gutting the EPA's budget, which makes up just 0.22 percent of federal spending. A policy memo leaked to Axios proposed deep cuts to the EPA's budget, including axing hundreds of millions from grants to states and Native American tribes, climate programs, and environmental programs and management.

Trump's transition team also instructed agency employees to halt all press releases, social media, blog posts and external speaking engagements — giving rise to rogue Twitter accounts claiming to represent the views of the silenced regulators. The team announced plans to review all EPA studies before publication, stoking fears that the new administration might stifle research on issues such as climate change.

Inside EPA reported earlier this month that Trump is weighing closing the agency's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, which handles both civil and criminal enforcement of the country's core environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The move would be part of a broader attack on regulations, including an executive order signed last month requiring agencies to suggest two rules to be axed for every new one proposed.

For some, Trump's proposed cuts may not go far enough. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) introduced a bill to "completely abolish" the EPA by the end of next year, as HuffPost reported.

Now that Pruitt is in place, Trump is expected to issue executive orders undoing Obama-era EPA rules on climate and water pollution as early as this week.

CNN

http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/21/politics/scott-pruitt-epa-speech/

Pruitt tries to soothe worries at EPA

By Theodore Schleifer 2/21/17, 2:25PM

Washington (CNN) Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt tried his best Tuesday to fuse his humbler vision of his new agency with his stated respect for its long-serving, ambitious regulators in his maiden speech to EPA employees.

In a politically difficult pitch to career employees who may sharply disagree with his vision of a more restrained EPA, Pruitt offered something of a homily to the civil service, saluting those with decades of service and proclaiming them symbols of the agency's value. But Pruitt has promised a drastic overhaul of that agency they serve, a re-do that likely escaped few of the roughly 75 employees gathered in a tall, mahogany meeting room.

"It needs to be tethered to the statute," Pruitt said of their work. "We need to respect that. We need to follow that. Because when we do, guess what happens? We avoid litigation, we avoid the uncertainty of litigation and we reach better ends and outcomes at the end of day."

Pruitt knows something about that -- as Oklahoma attorney general, he made his name suing the Obama-era EPA as overzealous regulators without due concern for their effect on job creation.

He has vowed to curtail what critics say is the agency's zest for rulemaking and to offer a more balanced way to promote hiring while still protecting the environment. He did not mention the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act, two of the EPA's most prominent enforcement tasks, nor the threat of climate change, in his speech.

What he did offer was a flash of deference to the bureaucracy he inherits. Moments after accepting gifts of an EPA lapel pin and a baseball cap, the former minor league baseball team owner celebrated employees who knew their way around the building better than he did. He pledged to listen intently to the agency's most-tenured workers, and to carry himself with "civility," which he conceded in this political era was "in short supply."

Many EPA employees have expressed an uneasiness with Pruitt; the labor union that represents EPA employees even urged their members to call senators and urge them to vote against Pruitt during the confirmation process.

And Pruitt at one point suggested that his image would soften as he escaped the glare of the

media.

"I also recognize you don't know me very well," Pruitt said, urging suspicion of some of of the coverage that only highlighted some of his resume. "I look forward to sharing the rest of the story with you."

Working the room with handshakes and back-pats following his speech, Pruitt signaled that he had to get to know some of his own employees better as well: "I haven't seen you in a while!" he told one of them.

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The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/feb/21/epa-scott-pruitt-trump-environment-economy

New EPA head Scott Pruitt: 'We can be both pro-job and pro-environment'

By Edward Helmore 2/21/17, 1:44PM

The new head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, told agency staff on Tuesday that the US should not have to choose between the economy and the environment.

As the White House reportedly prepares executive orders to roll back Obama-era green regulations, Pruitt struck a conciliatory tone in an address to agency staff, saying he would "listen, learn and lead".

William Happer, frontrunner for job of providing mainstream scientific opinion to officials, backs crackdown on federal scientists' freedom to speak out

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"I believe that we as a nation can be both pro-energy and jobs, and pro-environment. We don't have to choose between the two," he said in his first speech to EPA workers since he was confirmed as administrator of the agency by the US Senate last week.

"I think our nation has done better than any nation in the world at making sure that we do the job of protecting our natural resources, and protecting our environment, while also respecting economic growth," he told the room of about 70 staff at EPA headquarters in Washington.

Many Republican lawmakers view Pruitt, who sued the agency he now leads more than a dozen times as Oklahoma attorney general, as a refreshing change at the top of an agency they accuse of federal overreach and killing jobs.

But Democrats, environmental advocates and many of the EPA's current and former staff worry his appointment signals a reversal in America's progress cleaning up air and water and fighting global climate change. Nearly 800 former EPA officials signed a letter urging the Senate to reject his confirmation. Opponents argued that his ties to the fossil fuel industry and frequent lawsuits against the agency he now leads should disqualify him.

In his address to staff, Pruitt invoked the founding fathers Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton to urge compromise.

The political environment, he said, was "a very toxic environment" that is "damaging to the overall objective of finding results and answers to the very challenging issues we face as a country".

Pruitt said he would lead the agency based on the principle of finding solutions and working toward solving problems.

"As we do our work here, we deal with very difficult monumental issues with respect to our future environment and natural resources. We must have the same kind of attitude of finding solutions and solving problems."

He addressed the need for acting with civility in the exchange of ideas. "We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through difficult issues and do so in a civil manner."

The EPA administrator said he would seek to listen to those under him: "You can't lead unless you listen." But he also called the agency to observe process and the rule of law.

Pruitt's address comes as the Oklahoma attorney general's office faces a court-ordered deadline to turn over its communications with fossil fuel companies to a watchdog group. Opponents believe the emails will show Pruitt's close ties to the energy industry.

Myron Ebell, a key presidential aide, said climate education material could be 'withdrawn' and review of car fuel efficiency standards could be reopened

Read more

Pruitt said that by following the rule of law, the agency could avoid litigation and the uncertainty that comes with it and said he would seek to ensure that the EPA engendered trust at the state level.

"Regulations ought to make things regular," he said. "Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what's expected of them so they can plan and allocate resources to comply.

"We need to avoid abuses, such as using the guidance process to engage in rule-making, or engaging regulation through litigation. We need to open and transparent in our rule-making."

LA Times

http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-essential-washington-updates-scott-pruitt-tries-to-calm-a-very-1487701833-htmlstory.html

Scott Pruitt tries to calm a rattles EPA workforce

By Evan Halper 2/21/17

Even as the newly installed Environmental Protection Agency chief sought to calm employees anxious about his longtime opposition to the agency, Scott Pruitt managed to rattle them a little more.

Concerns about the direction he will take the EPA grew with publication over the weekend of his first interview as agency chief.

During it, he suggested to the Wall Street Journal that the EPA, which has taken the lead in federal efforts to regulate greenhouse gases, may not even be equipped to be playing much of a role at all.

He left open the possibility that the agency will look for leadership on global warming from the GOP Congress, where there has been a persistent opposition to meaningful climate action and mainstream climate science.

During his first agency-wide address Tuesday, Pruitt focused on his favorite themes of federalism, the need for predictability among regulated industries and the dangers of agency overreach. But he also sought to reassure the staff by remarking repeatedly about how much he values its work.

He expressed admiration for the many employees he met during his first meetings at the headquarters who have been with the agency for decades.

"You can't lead unless you can listen," Pruitt said. "I seek to listen, learn and lead with you." But he also bemoaned the "toxic" nature of modern politics.

Conservatives have accused the EPA of taking actions outside the rule of law in pursuit of a liberal environmental agenda. That's not how many employees of the 15,000-person agency view their work over the last several years. Their relationship with the new boss is certain to be tense. Just before Pruitt was confirmed Friday, 773 former employees signed a letter urging the Senate to reject him.

On Monday, Greenwire reported that Pruitt, a frequent target of protesters, is requesting round-the-clock security protection from the Secret Service. The protests may only intensify as Pruitt sets about dismantling the last administration's work on the environment.

"John Muir is rolling over in his grave at the notion of someone as toxic to the environment as Scott Pruitt taking over the EPA," Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said after Tuesday's speech.

Bloomberg BNA

http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=105798485&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=49876800

Pruitt Starts at EPA With Speech to Staff, E-mails Disclosures

By Brian Dabbs 2/21/17

Scott Pruitt will face an eventful first day at the EPA.

The new addition to the agency, fresh off a stint as Oklahoma attorney general, is set to deliver his first remarks to EPA staff just as an Oklahoma district court compels the release of thousands of his former office's e-mails with fossil fuel companies. Adding to that, Democrats and environmental groups are pledging to hound the new Environmental Protection Agency administrator to ensure he complies with the law after Pruitt was confirmed Feb. 17 largely along partisan lines.

The Senate's vote capped weeks of gamesmanship and partisan bickering featuring last-minute Democratic pleas to postpone the vote for 10 days so Senators could review the roughly 2,500 e-mails with fossil fuel companies an Oklahoma judge ordered released by Feb. 21. That's the same day Pruitt will address EPA staff.

“Even if the Republicans in Congress are as actively engaged in covering up his misdeeds at EPA as they have been engaged in covering up the dark-money operation of Mr. Pruitt and the e-mails of Mr. Pruitt, there are still avenues of litigation, of ethics disclosure and of press inquiry that open things up quite a lot,” Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) told reporters Feb. 16.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) also denounced Pruitt, but said it's unclear whether the Republican Senate will conduct genuine oversight over the new administrator. “We will see,” Sanders told Bloomberg BNA.

Democrats have repeatedly accused Pruitt of secretly raising money from fossil fuel companies, while Republicans and some energy-state Democrats say he will scale back onerous EPA regulations.

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), a chief Pruitt supporter, said massive regulatory rollbacks may take time.

“I think that's jumping the gun,” Inhofe told Bloomberg BNA. “The next step is to try to fill in his cabinet. His problem is, he is going to have to have personnel to make all these things happen and get busy. But I know he is going to try and do that.”

EPA Extols Pruitt

Still, the EPA lauded the incoming chief in a message immediately following his confirmation.

“He strongly believes environmental law, policy and progress are all based on cooperation among the states, cooperation between the states and EPA and cooperation between regulators and the public,” the agency said in a statement. “Mr. Pruitt will lead EPA in a way that our future generations inherit a better and healthier environment while advancing America's economic interests.”

As an example of his environmental accomplishments, the agency pointed to a deal Pruitt with struck with his Arkansas counterpart to decrease phosphorus pollution in the Illinois River watershed. The statement also referenced Pruitt's extensive track record of litigation against EPA regulations.

“Pruitt is recognized as a national leader in the cause to restore the proper balance between the states and federal government, and established common sense regulations that are fair and provide relief where needed,” said the agency.

An EPA spokeswoman didn't respond for comment on whether Pruitt has already resigned as Oklahoma attorney general. Oklahoma, as represented by the attorney general's office, is still involving in a range of suits against EPA, such as challenges to the Clean Water Rule, Clean Power Plan, ozone air quality standards, mercury standards for power plants and methane limits for the oil and natural gas industry.

Neither the EPA or the White House responded to Bloomberg BNA's request for comment on

Pruitt's priorities.

Democratic Rancor

The Pruitt nomination passed the Senate 52-46 with two Democrats, Sens. Joe Manchin (W.Va.) and Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.), joining Republicans in support.

An environmental group, Friends of the Earth, pledged to hold Manchin and Heitkamp accountable for undermining the "resistance to [President Donald Trump's] extreme agenda."

Those Democrats, however, joined the rest of their caucus in voting to delay the vote by 10 days. Manchin told Bloomberg BNA the disclosure of the requested e-mails would have helped properly vet the nominee. "I would have liked to have seen them," Manchin said, adding that he personally asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to delay the vote. But Pruitt will put in place policies to benefit West Virginia, a state embattled by a loss of coal jobs, Manchin said.

The Center for Media and Democracy, a watchdog group, and the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, sued the state attorney general's office, headed by Pruitt, over a long-delayed open records release of the 2,500 e-mails.

The request calls for Pruitt's correspondence with Peabody Energy Inc., Arch Coal Inc., Murray Energy Corp., Devon Energy Corp. and Koch Industries Inc., among other organizations. Judge Aletia Haynes Timmons Feb. 17 ordered the release of the e-mails by Feb. 21.

Democrats blasted Republicans for refusing to postpone the confirmation vote to assess the e-mails.

"[Republicans] will now own whatever comes out on [Feb. 21] and subsequent releases of the e-mails," Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), a fierce advocate of combating climate change, told reporters.

Asked why he wouldn't sign off on a delay, McConnell responded: “Because I choose not to. And if they were not making that argument, they'd be making another argument.”

—With assistance from Dean Scott.

Politico

http://www.politico.com/story/2017/02/scott-pruitt-epa-changes-235231

New EPA chief treads softly, but signals big changes to come

By Eric Wolff and Alex Guillen 2/21/17, 1:22PM

New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt offered a conciliatory greeting Tuesday to employees of the agency that he frequently sued in his previous job as Oklahoma's attorney general — but he made clear he plans a sharp departure from the Obama administration in the agency's strategy.

“Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate," he told a group of about 100 agency employees. "Those that we regulate ought to know what we expect of them so that they can plan and allocate resources to comply. That’s really the job of the regulator, and the process that we engage in in adopting regulation is very, very important because it sends a message."

In his previous job, Pruitt had sued to block Obama's EPA rules on climate change and the reach of the Clean Water Act — regulations that the White House is expected to gut with executive orders in the coming days.

Pruitt said the EPA would stop the "abuses that occur sometimes: Guidance through rulemaking, or using the guidance process to do rulemaking, or engaging in litigation — regulation through litigation, consent decrees that actually bypass the Administrative Procedures Act.”

Pruitt also praised the founding fathers, who he said addressed the problems of their day but "didn't shirk their responsibility."

He also used the meeting at EPA headquarters as a sign of how people can disagree and still be able to sit down and have a productive meeting.

"They acted with civility," he said. "Civility is something I believe in very much."

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E&E News

http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/02/21/stories/1060050365

Pruitt's pitch to staff: Give me a chance

By Robin Bravender and Kevin Bogardus 2/21/17

Scott Pruitt talked up his listening skills and desire for "civility" as he addressed a skeptical U.S. EPA staff today.

In his first speech to the agency since his swearing in as EPA administrator Friday, Pruitt stressed his respect for the agency's career staff. He hinted broadly at big changes that are expected to come to the agency under the Trump administration, although he declined to offer specific plans about efforts to repeal Obama administration environmental rules.

Many career EPA staffers have been wary about Pruitt's arrival after the former Oklahoma attorney general battled the agency's regulations in court and vowed major overhauls at the agency.

But Pruitt today cautioned those listening against jumping to conclusions.

"You don't know me very well," he told staff and press gathered in the Rachel Carson Green Room at EPA headquarters in Washington.

"In fact, you don't know me hardly at all other than what you've read in the newspaper and seen on the news," he said. "I might suggest to you ... I look forward to sharing the rest of the story with you as we spend time together. This is a beginning. It's a beginning for us to spend time and discuss certain principles by which I think this agency should conduct itself."

Pruitt steered clear of specifics about the Trump administration's energy policies in his 11-minute speech. He didn't, for example, delve into plans for withdrawing the Obama administration's Waters of the U.S. rule and Clean Power Plan, which he and President Trump have said they plan to do (*Greenwire*, Feb. 20).

Instead, Pruitt's greeting today appeared to be an attempt to calm the waters at the agency where many staffers are anxious.

"Civility is something I believe in very much. We ought to be able to get together and wrestle through some very difficult issues and do so in a civil manner," he told employees.

He added, "I seek to be a good listener. Those of you that have been here for quite some time, whether it's in the air area or water or whatever area that you may be in, I look forward to spending time with you, not just to address certain issues but really spend time and dig down deep with respect to how we're going to do business in the future and get to know you personally and get to know how I can be a resource to you as you do your work. ... You can't lead unless you listen."

The new administrator hinted broadly at some of the reforms he'd like to see at EPA. He said the agency has a responsibility to "avoid abuses that occur sometimes" in rulemaking, and he stressed the importance of following the "rule of law" and in partnering with states through federalism. "I seek to ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level," he said.

Catherine McCabe, who served as EPA's acting boss ahead of Pruitt's confirmation, offered the new administrator gifts, including an EPA lapel pin and an agency baseball cap.

Pruitt, the former co-owner of Oklahoma City's minor league baseball team, said he'd wear the EPA hat with pride to Washington Nationals games.

"I am excited about being in a city that actually has a major league baseball team," he said.

Some EPA employees attended today's event in person. Others tuned in online or listened by phone.

As Pruitt settles into his job, EPA staff and environmentalists will be watching closely to see how he leads the agency.

Agency employees were "hoping not to hear 'Death and Destruction for EPA,'" said John O'Grady, an EPA union leader, ahead of the speech. "Probably what we will hear is a lot of very smooth political talk, but the proof will be in the executive orders that President Trump issues."

The Trump administration is widely expected to issue executive orders directing the rollback of some of President Obama's signature environmental rules, including the Clean Power Plan and WOTUS. Those orders are expected to come as early as this week.

Forbes

http://www.forbes.com/sites/ericmack/2017/02/21/scott-pruitt-lays-out-a-vision-for-the-epa-that-contradicts-the-mission-of-the-epa/#4a7a83025829

Scott Pruitt Lays Out A Vision For The EPA That Contradicts The Mission Of The EPA

By Eric Mack 2/21/17, 1:10PM

New Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt addressed EPA staff and the media Tuesday and in a speech lasting less than fifteen minutes, he spoke mostly about protecting jobs, industry and "the marketplace" and oh yea, the environment, too.

Pruitt comes to the Trump administration from his previous job as Oklahoma Attorney General where he spent a fair amount of time suing the very federal agency that he now heads. In six years he filed more than a dozen lawsuits against the EPA over expansion of the Clean Water Act and regulations on coal-fired power plants.

If that track record didn't make it clear what direction Pruitt will take the EPA, reading between the words of his introduction to the career employees who have spent decades working to safeguard our natural environment solidify it in crystal.

To start, let's just note that the word "climate" did not pass Pruitt's lips, so that's clearly no longer a priority at EPA, as we suspected.

Pruitt began laying out his vision and principles for running the agency by sharing a story of how the founding fathers once sat down together to work out a compromise that would lead to moving the nation's capitol from New York to the shores of the Potomac. He used the historical anecdote as a metaphor for how he will seek dialogue and compromise to address issues and problem solving related to "our environment and natural resources."

To be clear, in this context Pruitt is clearly referring to the industries that extract natural resources like oil and gas to bring them to market.

Pruitt sounds like a nice, reasonable guy in his remarks to be sure, but he's laying out a vision that already undercuts the very mission and long-term objectives of the agency he now leads.

He's not an elected official trying to compromise with other politicians to get bills passed. More of that sort of compromise, which is what was actually happening in his historical anecdote, would be great. But agencies like the EPA have missions and duties that are laid out in statute, which they must execute. Compromise with industry is not included. The mission of the EPA is actually quite simple: "to protect human health and the environment -- air, water, and land."

That's it. Notice there's no mention of protecting extractive industries. For an EPA administrator to begin his tenure by calling for compromise and working together with polluters is a bit like an attorney representing a rape victim sitting down with the client before trial and reminding her that they'll need to keep in mind the concerns and needs of the perpetrator as they prosecute the case.

Pruitt's concluding message was that he believes the EPA can be "pro-energy, pro-jobs and pro-environment."

I suppose it can, but that's not the EPA's job. There are countless other interests out there that are pro-energy and pro-jobs. The EPA was created to be solely concerned with the environment and human health.

To compromise that mission internally, before even sitting down at the table with the energy industry and other polluters, makes what we already knew a matter of public record and imminent policy: that Administrator Pruitt is still the agency's primary adversary, even as he takes its reins.

Washington Examiner

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/pruitt-federalism-matters-at-epa/article/2615361

Pruitt: 'Federalism matters' at EPA

By John Siciliano 2/21/17, 1:01PM

New Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt wants to make the agency a place where "federalism matters" and states are not seen as adversaries, he said Tuesday.

"I seek to ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level," rather than approach them as "adversaries," Pruitt said in his first address to agency staff on Tuesday.

He made the comments after being sworn in as President Trump's head of the EPA on Friday, despite widespread Democratic opposition and protests by environmental groups and former EPA administrators.

Trump has pledged to roll back a number of EPA regulations seen as detrimental to coal miners and energy production jobs.

Pruitt said Tuesday that he doesn't see a conflict between being pro-energy and pro-environment. "We can be both pro-energy and pro-environment ... and we don't have to choose."

Pruitt also wants to make sure everything the agency does is based firmly in statute and the law.

He said the agency should abide by the law to "avoid litigation," devoting more of its time doing the business of the agency, and less time going to court over its regulations.

Washington Times

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/feb/21/scott-pruitt-new-epa-chief-agency-will-respect-rul/

New EPA chief Pruitt says agency will respect rule of law, states' rights

By Ben Wolfgang 2/21/17

He didn't delve into policy specifics nor did he mention his predecessors by name, but new Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt on Tuesday told federal employees

that under his leadership the agency once again will adhere to the rule of law and will respect states' rights.

In a speech to EPA workers in Washington, Mr. Pruitt — the former attorney general of Oklahoma who often clashed with the agency in court as he challenged former President Obama's climate-change agenda — said federal environmental; regulations often have been unnecessarily cumbersome and expensive, and have created confusion rather than clarity.

"Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those they regulate," he said. "I seek to ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level, that those at the state level see us as partners … and not as adversaries."

Mr. Pruitt was confirmed last week by a Senate vote of 52 to 46, drawing the support of two Democrats — Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine voted against him, saying she believes he's unfit to lead the agency.

His address comes the same day the Oklahoma attorney general's office is set to release nearly 3,000 emails containing communications between Mr. Pruitt and oil-and-gas companies. Democrats believe those documents will show clear collusion between the new EPA chief and the fossil fuels sector, though their concerns were not enough to delay last Friday's vote.

Mr. Pruitt has defended his close relationship with oil-and-gas firms while Oklahoma attorney general, saying it was his duty to defend his state's industries against unfair or unlawful regulations.

CNBC

http://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/epa-head-scott-pruitt-to-address-agency-employees-in-speech-tuesday

EPA chief Scott Pruitt says regulators' exist to give certainty

2/21/17

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt called on his agency to offer certainty to those it regulates and advocated for federalism in his first speech to Environmental Protection Agency employees on Tuesday.

"Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those that they regulate. Those that we regulate ought to know what's expected of them, so that they can plan and allocate resources to comply," Pruitt said in comments that reflected his remarks in a hearing before a Senate committee last month.

President Donald Trump's divisive pick to lead the EPA was confirmed and sworn in on Friday, following efforts by Democrats to block the confirmation in committee hearings and before the full Senate.

Environmentalists and progressives have fiercely opposed Pruitt, who has questioned the science behind climate change and sued the EPA 14 times on behalf of Oklahoma while serving as the state's attorney general. Nearly 800 former EPA officials signed a letter urging the Senate to reject Pruitt's confirmation.

Conservatives and the energy industry have hailed Pruitt as an advocate for giving states more control over environmental rules and for fighting what they see as regulatory overreach by the Obama administration. Pruitt is widely expected to execute Trump's promise to scale back Obama-era rules and initiatives aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Pruitt's first speech comes on the same day the Oklahoma attorney general's office faces a court-ordered deadline to turn over its communications with fossil fuel companies to a watchdog group. A *New York Times* investigation found the office had signed a letter drafted by Devon Energy that accused regulators of overstating pollution from natural gas wells.