Message

From: Lyons, Troy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=15E4881C95044AB49C6C35A0F5EEF67E-LYONS, TROY]
Sent: 10/10/2017 10:18:00 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: QFR Question

Thanks, Bill

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Cc: Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: QFR Question

Here is a table of all of my pending cases in the DC Circuit. It is a PACER run that needs to be cleaned up.

There is not an easy way to collect cases that have been decided and are no longer on the docket. I can think of five: (1) the E15 waiver case (dismissed on standing); (2) the misfueling mitigation rule case (dismissed on standing); (3) a PM2.5 NAAQS challenge (petition denied); (4) a challenge to the Wise Co., TX nonattainment area designation (petition denied); and (5) CSAPR (mixed result). There may be more.

I suggest the following answer:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Lyons, Troy [mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:46 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Ringel, Aaron; Palich, Christian
Subject: FW: QFR Question

Bill—we need to get this tonight so we can get this over to OMB ASAP to meet EPW's Thursday deadline

---

From: Ringel, Aaron
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:44 PM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: QFR Question

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Wehrum, William L." <wwehrum@hunton.com>
> **Date:** October 10, 2017 at 5:36:09 PM EDT
> **To:** "Ringel, Aaron" <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** "Shimmin, Kaitlyn" <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>, "Palich, Christian" <palich.christian@epa.gov>
> **Subject: RE: QFR Question**
>
> Not yet. I'll get it to you in the morning.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ringel, Aaron [mailto:ringel.aaron@epa.gov]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:35 PM
> **To:** Wehrum, William L.
> **Cc:** Shimmin, Kaitlyn; Palich, Christian
> **Subject:** QFR Question
>
> Hi Bill, wanted to follow up and see if you had the table noted in the below question to include in the response. If you can send along as soon as possible would be appreciated.
>
> Thanks!
> Aaron
>
> 14. How many legal cases have you filed, or joined others in filing against the EPA, since leaving the agency? Please provide a full list with the outcome of each case, including those cases in which the court disagreed with your argument, agreed with your argument, and those in which the court refused to hear the matter.
>
> **WLW: [need case table **]**

Aaron E. Ringel
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

W: 202.564.4373
Ringel.Aaron@epa.gov

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 11/7/2017 2:37:12 PM
To: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]
Subject: RE: Collins Meeting

Thanks Aaron. I have a meeting at 4:30 on Wednesday that would be hard to reschedule. I am available earlier that afternoon and later that afternoon, if possible.

From: Ringel, Aaron [mailto:ringel.aaron@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 9:30 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Palich, Christian; Shimmin, Kaitlyn
Subject: RE: Collins Meeting

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Also, can you do 4:30 on Wednesday with Manchin? They need to move the meeting.

Thanks,

-Aaron

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: Collins Meeting

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/10/2017 10:09:10 PM
To: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: QFR Question
Attachments: D.C. Circuit - Wehrum Open Cases List-c.pdf

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Aaron

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    WLW: [need case table **]

Aaron E. Ringel
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

W: 202.564.4373
Ringel.Aaron@epa.gov

Case Selection Page

Case Number Title	Opening Date Status	Party Attorney	Last Docket Entry	Originating Case Number Origin
08-1277 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	08/21/2008 Open	American Fuels & Petrochemical Manufacturers Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/15/2017 13:07:41	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
08-1277 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	08/21/2008 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/15/2017 13:07:41	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
08-1277 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	08/21/2008 Open	National Petrochemical & Refiners Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/15/2017 13:07:41	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
08-1277 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	08/21/2008 Open	Western States Petroleum Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/15/2017 13:07:41	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
08-1281 Env. Integrity Project v. EPA	08/25/2008 Open	American Fuels & Petrochemical Manufacturers Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/15/2017 13:07:41	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
08-1281 Env. Integrity Project v. EPA	08/25/2008 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/15/2017 13:07:41	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
08-1281 Env. Integrity Project v. EPA	08/25/2008 Open	National Petrochemical & Refiners Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/15/2017 13:07:41	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
09-1332 Kinder Morgan CO2 Co., LP v. EPA	12/29/2009 Open	Kinder Morgan CO2 Co., LP Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/23/2017 13:45:06	EPA-1 : EPA-74FR56260 Environmental Protection Agency
11-1023 Gas Processors Association v. EPA	01/28/2011 Open	Gas Processors Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/03/2017 14:39:25	EPA-1 : EPA-75FR74458 Environmental Protection Agency
11-1309 American Petroleum Institute, et al v. EPA	08/30/2011 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/05/2017 13:08:43	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR38748 Environmental Protection Agency
11-1309 American Petroleum Institute, et al v. EPA	08/30/2011 Open	Independent Petroleum Association of America Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/05/2017 13:08:43	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR38748 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1208 National Rural Electric Coop. v. EPA	04/23/2012 Open	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/30/2017 14:16:50	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR10324 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1352 National Rural Electric Cooper v. EPA	08/13/2012 Open	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/30/2017 14:18:40	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR34830 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1405 American Petroleum Institute v.	10/15/2012 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	01/31/2017 15:51:13	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR49490 Environmental

EPA				Protection Agency
12-1406 Gas Processors Association v. EPA	10/15/2012 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	01/31/2017 15:51:13	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR49490 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1442 American Petroleum Institute, et al v. EPA	11/13/2012 Open	American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/01/2017 10:21:15	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR56422 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1442 American Petroleum Institute, et al v. EPA	11/13/2012 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/01/2017 10:21:15	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR56422 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1063 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	03/11/2013 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/05/2017 13:08:43	EPA-1 : EPA-78FR2210 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1108 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	04/03/2013 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/18/2017 12:45:42	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR49490 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1233 Conservation Law Foundation, et al v. EPA	08/02/2013 Open	National Rual Electric Cooperative Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/09/2017 11:28:57	EPA-1 : EPA-78FR6674 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	American Forest & Paper Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	American Iron and Steel Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	American Wood Council Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	Biomass Power Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	Corn Refiners Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	National Association of Manufacturers Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	National Oilseed Processors Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental

				Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	Rubber Manufacturers Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	10/16/2013 Open	Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Inc. Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1289 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	11/22/2013 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/18/2017 12:45:42	EPA-1 : EPA-78FR58416 Environmental Protection Agency
14-1199 PSEG Power LLC, et al v. EPA	10/14/2014 Open	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/09/2017 11:28:57	EPA-1 : EPA-79FR48072 Environmental Protection Agency
14-1267 Georgia-Pacific LLC v. EPA	12/05/2014 Open	Georgia-Pacific LLC Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/09/2017 11:50:26	EPA-1 : EPA-79FR60898 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1021 Gas Processors Association v. EPA	01/23/2015 Open	Gas Processors Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/08/2017 16:27:13	EPA-1 : EPA-79FR70352 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1044 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	02/27/2015 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/18/2017 12:45:42	EPA-1 : EPA-79FR79018 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1197 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	06/30/2015 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/08/2017 13:17:22	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR25068 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1473 Gas Processors Association v. EPA	12/21/2015 Open	Gas Processors Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	04/24/2017 10:59:13	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR64262 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1487 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	12/22/2015 Open	Brick Industry Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/11/2017 11:42:40	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR65470 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1492 Brick Industry Association v. EPA	12/23/2015 Open	Brick Industry Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/11/2017 11:42:40	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR65470 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	American Chemistry Council Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	American Forest & Paper Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
		American Iron and Steel		EPA-1 : EPA-

16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	American Wood Council Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	Biomass Power Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	Coalition for Responsible Waste Incineration Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	Council of Industrial Boiler Owners Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	National Association of Manufacturers Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	National Oilseed Processors Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	01/19/2016 Open	Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Inc. Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	06/12/2017 10:39:12	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1033 American Fuel & Petrochemical, et al v. EPA	01/29/2016 Open	American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/16/2017 23:57:16	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR75178 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1033 American Fuel & Petrochemical, et al v. EPA	01/29/2016 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/16/2017 23:57:16	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR75178 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1035 Air Alliance Houston, et al v. EPA, et al	02/01/2016 Open	American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/16/2017 23:57:16	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR75178 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1035 Air Alliance Houston, et al v. EPA, et al	02/01/2016 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/16/2017 23:57:16	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR75178 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1105 North America's Building Trade v. OSHA, et al	04/01/2016 Open	National Concrete Masonry Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/29/2017 12:04:22	OSHA-1 : OSHA-81FR16286 Occupational Safety & Health Administration
16-1105 North America's Building Trade v. OSHA, et al	04/01/2016 Open	National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/29/2017 12:04:22	OSHA-1 : OSHA-81FR16286 Occupational Safety & Health Administration
16-1105 North America's Building Trade v. OSHA, et al	04/01/2016 Open	Portland Cement Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/29/2017 12:04:22	OSHA-1 : OSHA-81FR16286 Occupational Safety & Health Administration

16-1131 Georgia Construction Aggregate, et al v. Secretary of Labor, et al	04/28/2016 Open	Georgia Construction Aggregate Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/29/2017 12:04:22	OSHA-1 : OSHA-81FR16286 Occupational Safety & Health Administration
16-1131 Georgia Construction Aggregate, et al v. Secretary of Labor, et al	04/28/2016 Open	National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/29/2017 12:04:22	OSHA-1 : OSHA-81FR16286 Occupational Safety & Health Administration
16-1146 Brick Industry Association v. DOL, et al	05/13/2016 Open	Brick Industry Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/29/2017 12:04:22	OSHA-1 : OSHA-81FR16286 Occupational Safety & Health Administration
16-1146 Brick Industry Association v. DOL, et al	05/13/2016 Open	National Concrete Masonry Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/29/2017 12:04:22	OSHA-1 : OSHA-81FR16286 Occupational Safety & Health Administration
16-1146 Brick Industry Association v. DOL, et al	05/13/2016 Open	Portland Cement Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	03/29/2017 12:04:22	OSHA-1 : OSHA-81FR16286 Occupational Safety & Health Administration
16-1179 Brick Industry Association v. EPA	06/09/2016 Open	Brick Industry Association Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/11/2017 11:42:40	EPA-1 : EPA-81FR31234 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1270 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	08/02/2016 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/18/2017 12:45:42	EPA-1 : EPA-81FR35824 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1271 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	08/02/2016 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	04/26/2017 11:16:43	EPA-1 : EPA-81FR35944 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1345 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	10/03/2016 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	05/30/2017 09:47:43	EPA-1 : EPA-81FR51102 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1425 Natural Resources Defense Coun v. EPA	12/30/2016 Open	American Petroleum Institute Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	02/03/2017 16:48:33	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR49490 Environmental Protection Agency
17-1088 Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA	03/14/2017 Open	Utility Air Regulatory Group Atty: William L. Wehrum Jr.	04/25/2017 18:15:43	EPA-1 : EPA-82FR4594 Environmental Protection Agency

Note:

* Click on Case No. to get Case Summary

* Click on Short Title to get Case Query

PACER Service Center			
Transaction Receipt			
DC Circuit (USCA) - 06/12/2017 12:32:09			
PACER Login:	hw0017:2563816:0	**Client Code:**	
Description:	Case Selection Table	**Search Criteria:**	Name: Wehrum, William (aty pty), Filed: 06/12/2017 and earlier, Status:

			open
Billable Pages:	3	**Cost:**	0.30

Message

From: Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BECB3F33F9A14ACD8112D898CC7853C6-SHIMMIN, KA]
Sent: 9/19/2017 1:42:03 PM
To: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]; David Ross Ex. 6 Leopold, Matthew Z. [MLeopold@carltonfields.com]; doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]
Subject: RE: POSSIBLE Hearing Delay

Sorry Dave just got your flight info. I'll cancel the Whitehouse meeting.

Kaitlyn Shimmin
Special Assistant Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
O: (202) 564-4108
C: (Ex. 6
Shimmin.Kaitlyn@epa.gov

From: Shimmin, Kaitlyn
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 9:39 AM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com>; David Ross Ex. 6 Leopold, Matthew Z. <MLeopold@carltonfields.com>; doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu
Cc: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Frye, Tony (Robert) <frye.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: POSSIBLE Hearing Delay

Hello All- We are still waiting for an update from the committee but in the mean time I wanted to send you your schedule for the today. We're already starting to see some changes.

Tuesday, September 19

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM	**LEOPOLD:** Final Pre- Hearing Prep
12:30 PM- 1:00 PM	**WEHRUM:** Meeting with Senator Merkley Location: Hart 313
4:30 PM- 3:30 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Inhofe (R-OK) Location: 205 Russell
5:00 PM-5:30 PM	**ROSS:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) Location: 530 Hart

5:30 PM-3:00 PM **WEHRUM:** Meeting with Senator Inhofe (R-OK)
Location: 205 Russell

Kaitlyn Shimmin
Special Assistant Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
O: (202) 564-4108
C: Ex. 6
Shimmin.Kaitlyn@epa.gov

From: Lyons, Troy
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 6:14 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com>; David Ross <Ex. 6>; Leopold, Matthew Z. <MLeopold@carltonfields.com>; doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu
Cc: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Frye, Tony (Robert) <frye.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: POSSIBLE Hearing Delay

Thank you for your patience—I know this is extremely frustrating, especially since it is the last minute.

The committee told me we are still on; however, this is subject to change. I will ask for a FIRM yes or no in the morning.

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 6:02 PM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; David Ross <Ex. 6>; Leopold, Matthew Z. <MLeopold@carltonfields.com>; doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu
Cc: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Frye, Tony (Robert) <frye.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: POSSIBLE Hearing Delay

Any news?

From: Lyons, Troy [mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 1:07 PM
To: David Ross; Leopold, Matthew Z.; doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu; Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Palich, Christian; Ringel, Aaron; Shimmin, Kaitlyn; Frye, Tony (Robert)
Subject: POSSIBLE Hearing Delay
Importance: High

Nominees—the Senate may wrap up its business tomorrow night and leave early for the Jewish holiday (which the Senate was planning to already be out Thursday and Friday). This would result in the hearing being postponed. We are working with EPW and Leader McConnell's office to push this week's hearing or get a alternative. We should have clarity this evening.

I would advise you to continue with your travel plans. If your family is scheduled to come, I would advise them to cancel their plans. I am sorry for this last minute change.

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 (cell)

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/10/2017 4:57:39 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Nomination Opposition
Attachments: wehrum-c.jpg

Liz – I continue to receive nasty e-mails from opponents of my nomination. But, not a huge number – only about two or three a day. In addition, attached is a flyer that has been posted around the area. Our office sits on the edge of the GW campus. I think this is probably a student activist.

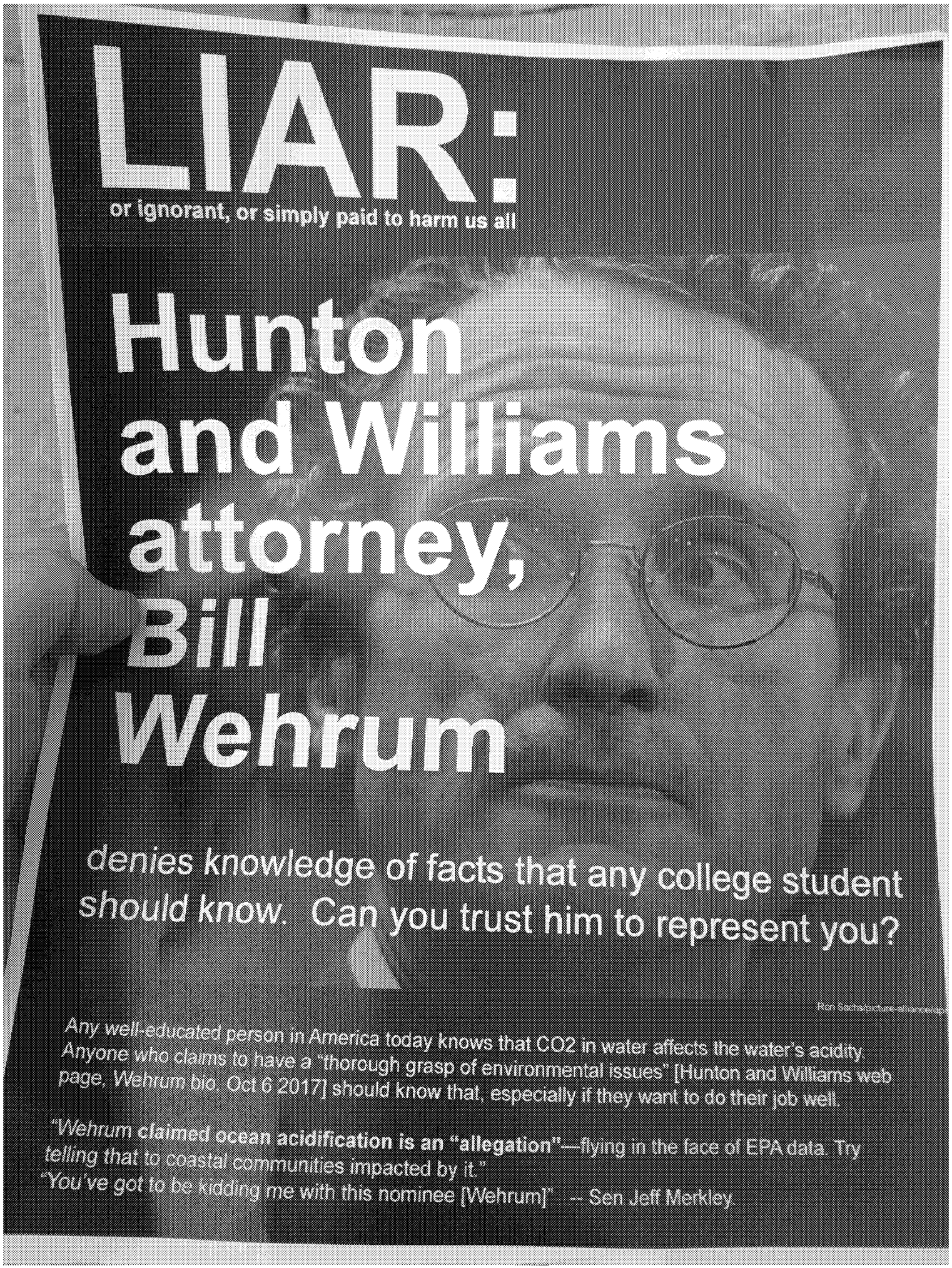
I am not concerned with any of this. I just wanted to keep you up to date on what I'm seeing.

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com


LIAR:
or ignorant, or simply paid to harm us all
Hunton and Williams attorney, Bill Wehrum
denies knowledge of facts that any college student should know. Can you trust him to represent you?
Ron Sachs/picture-alliance/dpa
Any well-educated person in America today knows that CO2 in water affects the water's acidity. Anyone who claims to have a "thorough grasp of environmental issues" [Hunton and Williams web page, Wehrum bio, Oct 6 2017] should know that, especially if they want to do their job well.
"Wehrum claimed ocean acidification is an "allegation"—flying in the face of EPA data. Try telling that to coastal communities impacted by it."
"You've got to be kidding me with this nominee [Wehrum]" -- Sen Jeff Merkley.

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 10/5/2017 6:04:24 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: Message from WIRELESS CALLER (Ex. 6

I am sorry about this, I would encourage Deliberative Process / Ex. 5
Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 1:33 PM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Message from WIRELESS CALLER (Ex. 6

Office.

From: Lyons, Troy [mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2017 1:26 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Bowman, Liz; Ringel, Aaron; Palich, Christian
Subject: Re: Message from WIRELESS CALLER Ex. 6

Was this your personal number or office?

If office, I'd recommend the firm take down your contact information.

_____
Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 5, 2017, at 11:18 AM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

> A personal appeal. Looks like a campaign may be developing.
>
> **From:** Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System [mailto:unityconnection@hwaucsums01.ad.hunton.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, October 05, 2017 12:16 PM
> **To:** Wehrum, William L.
> **Subject:** Message from WIRELESS CALLER (Ex. 6

<VoiceMessage.wav>

Message

From: Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BECB3F33F9A14ACD8112D898CC7853C6-SHIMMIN, KA]
Sent: 9/18/2017 8:54:12 PM
To: David Ross [Ex. 6]; Leopold, Matthew Z. [MLeopold@carltonfields.com]; doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu; Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: List of EPW Support Letters

They just received this from Sean Alteri, Director

Kentucky Division for Air Quality for Wehrum.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 18, 2017, at 4:19 PM, Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov> wrote:

Two more:

Wehrum: Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

Leopold: Nancy Linnan

Kaitlyn Shimmin
Special Assistant Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
O: (202) 564-4108
C: [Ex. 6]
Shimmin.Kaitlyn@epa.gov

From: Shimmin, Kaitlyn
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 4:08 PM
To: David Ross <[Ex. 6]Leopold, Matthew Z. <MLeopold@carltonfields.com>; doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu; Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com>
Cc: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: List of EPW Support Letters

Below are the letters that EPW has received in support of your nomination. Please let me know if there are any that are missing that need to be tracked down. Thanks !

Leopold: McAliley, Sasso

Wehrum: Bracewell- Holmstead

Ross: Gov of Wyoming, DEQ Parfitt

Dourson: Wallace, Goodman, Cohen, Klaunig, Seed, Kadry, Gori, Society of Toxicology Lehman Awardees, Patterson

Kaitlyn Shimmin
Special Assistant Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
O: (202) 564-4108
C: Ex. 6
Shimmin.Kaitlyn@epa.gov

Message

From: Lyons, Troy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=15E4881C95044AB49C6C35A0F5EEF67E-LYONS, TROY]
Sent: 10/28/2017 4:32:19 PM
To: William L. Wehrum [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]; Gunasekara, Mandy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53d1a3caa8bb4ebab8a2d28ca59b6f45-Gunasekara,]
Subject: Availability next week

Bill-what is your availability next week to visit w off committee Senators?

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 cell)

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/5/2017 5:17:46 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: FW: Message from WIRELESS CALLER (+18605735649)
Attachments: VoiceMessage.wav

A personal appeal. Looks like a campaign may be developing.

From: Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System [mailto:unityconnection@hwaucsums01.ad.hunton.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: Message from WIRELESS CALLER Ex. 6

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/5/2017 2:42:25 PM
To: Dourson, Michael (doursoml) [doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu]; David Ross [Ex. 6]; Leopold, Matthew Z. [MLeopold@carltonfields.com]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Rodrick, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6515dbe46dae466da53c8a3aa3be8cc2-Rodrick, Ch]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]; Cory, Preston (Katherine) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bfd80b15f6d04a3ba11fc8ca3c85bc50-Cory, Kathe]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]; Gunasekara, Mandy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53d1a3caa8bb4ebab8a2d28ca59b6f45-Gunasekara,]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: RE: QFR Process/Tips

Thanks Michael. You did a great job yesterday. Very impressive.

From: Dourson, Michael (doursoml) [mailto:doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2017 9:21 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.; David Ross; Leopold, Matthew Z.
Cc: Lyons, Troy; Palich, Christian; Ringel, Aaron; Rodrick, Christian; Shimmin, Kaitlyn; Cory, Preston (Katherine); Frye, Tony (Robert); Gunasekara, Mandy; Bowman, Liz
Subject: Re: QFR Process/Tips

Dear Bill, David and Matt

I am glad that the hearing is over and that the Senate fulfilled its duties, in part, on the confirmation process. I am especially thankful to Troy and his wonderful team for coaching me through the practice rounds and trying (not always successfully) to keep me on message. Now having gone through this experience, I can see where attempted defenses of past work are not practical in a hearing, and that we (the nominees) need to depend on EPA's public relations staff to set the record straight.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

I very much look forward to working directly with all of you.

Cheers!

Michael

---Those who have the privilege to know, have the duty to act. Albert Einstein

---

From: "Lyons, Troy" <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 11:18 PM
To: "Wehrum, William L." <wwehrum@hunton.com>
Cc: "Palich, Christian" <palich.christian@epa.gov>, David Ross <Ex. 6 Michael Dourson <doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu>, "Leopold, Matthew Z." <MLeopold@carltonfields.com>, "Ringel, Aaron" <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>, "Rodrick, Christian" <rodrick.christian@epa.gov>, "Shimmin, Kaitlyn" <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>, "Cory, Preston (Katherine)" <Cory.Preston@epa.gov>, "Frye, Tony (Robert)" <frye.robert@epa.gov>, "Gunasekara, Mandy" <Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: QFR Process/Tips

Haha how did that go?!?

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 4, 2017, at 7:31 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

> For the record, Senator Carper was on train 188 to Wilmington tonight. Bumped into him at Union Station.
>
> On Oct 4, 2017, at 5:42 PM, Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hi All,
> >
> > First off, terrific job! Today was a huge success. Next step will be responding to the QFR's the committee will send us for you all to answer. We will receive them by COB Friday and they will need to be completed by COB next Thursday October 12th. In an effort to have an efficient process we have put together attached (and below) QFR Process and tips sheet to help you.

As always please let us know if you have any questions. Enjoy celebrating the successful hearing this evening!

EPA Nominee Questions for the Record Response Process

October 4th, 2017

Background:

At 10 am on Wednesday, October 4th, 2017, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public (EPW) works held a full committee hearing entitled, Hearing on the Nominations of Michael Dourson, Matthew Leopold, David Ross, and William Wehrum to be Assistant Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Jeffery Baran to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The following document provides a brief outline of the process that will be undertaken to respond to the corresponding questions for the record (QFR).

Overview:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Tips for drafting responses to QFRs:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

<2017.10.04 - EPA QFR Process.docx>

Message

From: Dourson, Michael (doursoml) [doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu]
Sent: 10/5/2017 1:21:15 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]; David Ross [Ex. 6] Leopold, Matthew Z. [MLeopold@carltonfields.com]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Rodrick, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6515dbe46dae466da53c8a3aa3be8cc2-Rodrick, Ch]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]; Cory, Preston (Katherine) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bfd80b15f6d04a3ba11fc8ca3c85bc50-Cory, Kathe]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]; Gunasekara, Mandy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53d1a3caa8bb4ebab8a2d28ca59b6f45-Gunasekara,]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: Re: QFR Process/Tips
Attachments: Excerpts of TERA's Collaborative Work 9-28-17.docx

Dear Bill, David and Matt

I am glad that the hearing is over and that the Senate fulfilled its duties, in part, on the confirmation process. I am especially thankful to Troy and his wonderful team for coaching me through the practice rounds and trying (not always successfully) to keep me on message. Now having gone through this experience, I can see where attempted defenses of past work are not practical in a hearing, and that we (the nominees) need to depend on EPA's public relations staff to set the record straight.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

I very much look forward to working directly with all of you.

Cheers!

Michael

---Those who have the privilege to know, have the duty to act. Albert Einstein

Risk Science Center

Department of Environmental Health

From: "Lyons, Troy" <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 11:18 PM
To: "Wehrum, William L." <wwehrum@hunton.com>
Cc: "Palich, Christian" <palich.christian@epa.gov>, David Ross <Ex. 6 Michael Dourson <doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu>, "Leopold, Matthew Z." <MLeopold@carltonfields.com>, "Ringel, Aaron" <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>, "Rodrick, Christian" <rodrick.christian@epa.gov>, "Shimmin, Kaitlyn" <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>, "Cory, Preston (Katherine)" <Cory.Preston@epa.gov>, "Frye, Tony (Robert)" <frye.robert@epa.gov>, "Gunasekara, Mandy" <Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: QFR Process/Tips

Haha how did that go?!?

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 (cell)

Sent from my iPhone

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> For the record, Senator Carper was on train 188 to Wilmington tonight. Bumped into him at Union Station.
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>
> As always please let us know if you have any questions. Enjoy celebrating the successful hearing this evening!
>
> EPA Nominee Questions for the Record Response Process
>
> October 4th, 2017

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Overview:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Tips for drafting responses to QFRs:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6

E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

<2017.10.04 - EPA QFR Process.docx>

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/28/2017 8:55:11 PM
To: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
CC: Horner, Elizabeth (EPW) [Elizabeth_Horner@epw.senate.gov]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Gunasekara, Mandy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53d1a3caa8bb4ebab8a2d28ca59b6f45-Gunasekara,]; Dominguez, Alexander [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5ced433b4ef54171864ed98a36cb7a5f-Dominguez,]
Subject: RE: Sit Down on Monday

Of course. I am available any time Monday afternoon.

From: Lyons, Troy [mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Horner, Elizabeth (EPW); Palich, Christian; Gunasekara, Mandy; Dominguez, Alexander
Subject: Sit Down on Monday

Bill,

Do you have time for us to go up to visit with Elizabeth and a few of her colleagues Monday afternoon? It should not take too long—the focus is to do a final run through of some of the questions we discussed earlier today.

Many thanks,

Troy

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 cell)

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 10/5/2017 1:03:37 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: A modest request to remove your name from consideration as EPA Assistant Administrator

Ignore it; unfortunately we get a lot of these in the press box, aimed at all of us

-----Original Message-----
From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 7:36 AM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: A modest request to remove your name from consideration as EPA Assistant Administrator

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Joshua S. Weitz" <jsweitz@gatech.edu<mailto:jsweitz@gatech.edu>>
Date: October 4, 2017 at 10:55:15 PM EDT
To: <wwehrum@hunton.com<mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com>>
Subject: A modest request to remove your name from consideration as EPA Assistant Administrator

Dear Mr. Wehrum,

I am a scientist and Ex. 6 In both of these roles, I am writing to ask you to do the nation a profound service by withdrawing your name from consideration as the nominee for the position of EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation.

I ask you to do so because the management of air quality is deeply entangled with human health. Our lives literally depend on it.

If you are unable to critically assess both the easy facts - that the Earth is getting warmer, that the oceans are becoming more acidic, and that we - humans - are the major driver of such changes - then you will also be unable to deal with the many complicated tasks required to identify meaningful ways to maintain critical clean air standards. Of note, C02 is in air. And too much of it is certainly not a good thing.

Good policy stems from a reserve of judgment. Good policy is also informed by facts, evidence, and critical thinking. I recognize that as a lawyer you have substantial experience advising clients. Please act as your own best counsel and step away from this position and let someone else take on this role.

Sincerely,
Joshua Weitz

==========
Joshua S. Weitz
Professor, School of Biological Sciences Courtesy Professor, School of Physics Director, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Quantitative Biosciences Georgia Institute of Technology
310 Ferst Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30332

email: jsweitz@gatech.edu<mailto:jsweitz@gatech.edu>
phone: Ex. 6
office: Cherry Emerson 219
group: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__ecotheory.biology.gatech.edu_&d=DwIBAg&c=jxhwBfk-KSV6FFIot0PGng&r=yE0vRcg1_6xRchQQPG-5bl6t8x7mw3CtiGtCUlzxLOU&m=2-rPMNKBd5oV1M4w9d_Hq8Xpt8-PndI6nIsR0pTZX1M&s=ppVLXIAAeJCbETdHrkpPn07ycQx5D8uVe5ZWPjpb2wI&e=
web: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.biology.gatech.edu_people_joshua-2Dweitz&d=DwIBAg&c=jxhwBfk-KSV6FFIot0PGng&r=yE0vRcg1_6xRchQQPG-5bl6t8x7mw3CtiGtCUlzxLOU&m=2-rPMNKBd5oV1M4w9d_Hq8Xpt8-PndI6nIsR0pTZX1M&s=TNAaNq9xzmK0U2yWInDiVWJYRHMHuDvbseueGMtiWzg&e=

twitter: @weitzlab & @QBioS_GT
QBioS PhD: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__qbios.gatech.edu&d=DwIBAg&c=jxhwBfk-KSV6FFIot0PGng&r=yE0vRcg1_6xRchQQPG-5bl6t8x7mw3CtiGtCUlzxLOU&m=2-rPMNKBd5oV1M4w9d_Hq8Xpt8-PndI6nIsR0pTZX1M&s=SKTsOy1gJPCbY3vjUPscEwvbnQTB62Tef4h3z1AUJs0&e=
viral ecology book: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__press.princeton.edu_titles_10642.html&d=DwIBAg&c=jxhwBfk-KSV6FFIot0PGng&r=yE0vRcg1_6xRchQQPG-5bl6t8x7mw3CtiGtCUlzxLOU&m=2-rPMNKBd5oV1M4w9d_Hq8Xpt8-PndI6nIsR0pTZX1M&s=IrOdWlgD1Ism4Xbh7DaE92-pt7_eDyblTFV45HCyhzM&e=
==========

Message

From: Ringel, Aaron [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1654BDC951284A6D899A418A89FB0ABF-RINGEL, AAR]
Sent: 9/28/2017 3:58:48 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Rodrick, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6515dbe46dae466da53c8a3aa3be8cc2-Rodrick, Ch]
Subject: RE: Inhofe Meeting

Great, we'll get it set up and forward you an invite.

-Aaron

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:56 AM
To: Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>
Cc: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Rodrick, Christian <rodrick.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Inhofe Meeting

Yes, that works.

From: Ringel, Aaron [mailto:ringel.aaron@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:56 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Palich, Christian; Rodrick, Christian
Subject: Inhofe Meeting

Hey Bill, can you do 9:30AM next Tuesday October 3rd?

Thanks,
Aaron

Aaron E. Ringel
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

W: 202.564.4373
Ringel.Aaron@epa.gov

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 10/25/2017 5:56:13 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: questions for the record

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: questions for the record

Liz – fyi ...

From: Niina Heikkinen [mailto:nheikkinen@eenews.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: questions for the record

Hi,

Congrats on clearing committee! This is a bit late but I noticed in comments for the record that you stated you had not read the endangerment finding or the record prepared in support of it.

Could you clarify what your role was in the initial development of the endangerment finding, I understand you were at EPA for some very preliminary conversations about how to develop it, but no one I've talked to seems to quite remember the details.

Do you expect you will have to read it if you are confirmed, given the formal petitions to review it that EPA has before it?

I'm working on a brief article for tomorrow.

Thanks,

Niina Heikkinen
E&E News reporter
Ex. 6 (w)
(c)
@nhheikkinen
Skype: niina.h.heikkinen

E&E NEWS
122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001
www.eenews.net | @EENewsUpdates
Energywire, Climatewire, Greenwire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/27/2017 10:28:16 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: FW: NESHAP for Brick and Structural Clay Products

Liz – more fishing ...

From: Sean Reilly [mailto:sreilly@eenews.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: NESHAP for Brick and Structural Clay Products

Mr. Wehrum:

In connection with a story that will reference the long history of these regulations, I'll be noting that you were at EPA when the 2003 standards were promulgated and are now representing the Brick Industry Association in the ongoing litigation surrounding the 2015 regulations. I just wanted to check on a couple of points:

1. As counsel at OAR from 2001 to 2005, what was your role in drafting/promulgating the 2003 NESHAP?
2. How do you respond to criticism from environmental groups that point to the D.C. Circuit's 2007 decision as evident that the 2003 NESHAP were inadequate?
3. Based on the ethics agreement on file with OGE, it appears that, if you win Senate confirmation to head OAR, you will be recused for one year from any involvement in the current litigation and/or other matters related to the 2015 NESHAP. Can you confirm that would be the case, or, if that's not correct, clarify what restrictions would apply?

My deadline is 6 p.m. tomorrow.

Thanks very much,
Sean Reilly

Reporter
E&E News
Ex. 6 (Desk)
(Cell)
sreilly@eenews.net
Twitter: @SeanatGreenwire

E&E NEWS
122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001
www.eenews.net • www.eenews.tv
EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

Message

From: Lyons, Troy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=15E4881C95044AB49C6C35A0F5EEF67E-LYONS, TROY]
Sent: 9/16/2017 12:35:38 AM
To: MLeopold@carltonfields.com; Dave Ross [Ex. 6 doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu; wwehrum@hunton.com
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]; Rodrick, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6515dbe46dae466da53c8a3aa3be8cc2-Rodrick, Ch]; Cory, Preston (Katherine) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bfd80b15f6d04a3ba11fc8ca3c85bc50-Cory, Kathe]
Subject: Many thanks

Nominees--I hope you found today valuable. Thank you all for participating and taking the time to prepare for this morning's hearing-it will pay dividends in the long-run.

You all were nominated by the President because of your talent and expertise in your expertise in your respective fields. Wednesday's hearing wi be contentious at times but I am confident that you all will excel.

OCIR will continue to work behind the scenes in preparation for Wednesday's hearing. In the interim, please let us know if there is anything we can do to continue to support your nominations.

Many thanks,

OCIR

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 (cell)

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BECB3F33F9A14ACD8112D898CC7853C6-SHIMMIN, KA]
Sent: 9/15/2017 10:10:44 PM
To: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; 'Dourson, Michael (doursoml)' [doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu]; 'David Ross' Ex. 6 MLeopold@carltonfields.com; wwehrum@hunton.com
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]
Subject: RE: Tomorrows Schedule
Attachments: Senate Confirmed Nominee LxL 9.11.17.docx

Hello Everyone-

Attached is the most up to date schedule. And below is Monday & Tuesdays's details. As always, this is subject to change. If you have flights for next week please forward so that I can make sure we don't double book you.

Thanks again and great job today!

Monday, September 18

12:00 PM- 12:30 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Nelson's Office Staff: CoS, Susie Quinn; LD, Carla McGarvey Location: 716 Hart
4:30 PM-5:00 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) Location: 530 Hart

Tuesday, September 19

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM	**LEOPOLD:** Final Pre- Hearing Prep
12:30 PM- 1:00 PM	**DOURSON:** Meeting with Senator Merkley Location: US Capitol ST-64
1:00 PM- 2:00 PM	**WEHRUM:** Final Pre- Hearing Prep
1:30 PM- 2:30 PM	**DOURSON:** Final Pre-Hearing Prep
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	**WEHRUM:** Meeting with Senator Inhofe (R-OK) Location: 205 Russell
3:00 PM- 3:30 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Inhofe (R-OK) Location: 205 Russell
3:30 PM- 4:30 PM	**ROSS:** Final Pre-Hearing Prep
5:00 PM-5:30 PM	**ROSS:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) Location: 530 Hart

Kaitlyn Shimmin
Special Assistant Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
O: (202) 564-4108
C: Ex. 6
Shimmin.Kaitlyn@epa.gov

From: Palich, Christian
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 6:27 PM
To: 'Dourson, Michael (doursoml)' <doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu>; 'David Ross' < Ex. 6 MLeopold@carltonfields.com; wwehrum@hunton.com
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: Tomorrows Schedule

Hi Everyone,

I have attached the most up to date line by line for reference, and below is the schedule for tomorrow for your convenience (please note some added meetings for next week). Congratulations to all of you for terrific meetings today, our team here at OCIR unanimously agrees they went incredibly well!

Please note to be here no later than 9:15am. Once you arrive at EPA HQ please call me at Ex. 6 and I will come down to the front desk of the North Building to get you through security. We will then all walk to the mock hearing holding room together.

Friday, September 15

10:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Mock Hearing
12:15 PM- 1:15 PM	Debrief and Feedback

Enjoy the evening,

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

Senate Confirmed Nominee Line by Line

Week of September 18th

Monday, September 18

12:00 PM- 12:30 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Nelson's Office Staff: CoS, Susie Quinn; LD, Carla McGarvey Location: 716 Hart
4:30 PM-5:00 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) Location: 530 Hart

Tuesday, September 19

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM	**LEOPOLD:** Final Pre- Hearing Prep
12:30 PM- 1:00 PM	**DOURSON:** Meeting with Senator Merkley Location: US Capitol ST-64
1:00 PM- 2:00 PM	**WEHRUM:** Final Pre- Hearing Prep
1:30 PM- 2:30 PM	**DOURSON:** Final Pre-Hearing Prep
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	**WEHRUM:** Meeting with Senator Inhofe (R-OK) Location: 205 Russell
3:00 PM- 3:30 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Inhofe (R-OK) Location: 205 Russell
3:30 PM- 4:30 PM	**ROSS:** Final Pre-Hearing Prep
5:00 PM-5:30 PM	**ROSS:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) Location: 530 Hart

Wednesday, September 20

10:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Senate Environment & Public Works Confirmation Hearing Location:

Senate Confirmed Nominee Line by Line

Week of September 25th

Thursday, September 28

4:00 PM- 4:30 PM	**WEHRUM:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) Location: 530 Hart

Updated: 9/14/17 6:15 PM

Message

From: Lyons, Troy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=15E4881C95044AB49C6C35A0F5EEF67E-LYONS, TROY]
Sent: 9/15/2017 9:06:48 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: QFRs

Great. We will speak w the committee

_____

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 (cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2017, at 5:06 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

> Wednesday the 27th would be a full week ahead of markup. If the deadline can be set on that day, I should be able to bang out answers. Thursday would be better.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Lyons, Troy [mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov]
> **Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2017 4:52 PM
> **To:** Wehrum, William L.
> **Cc:** Ringel, Aaron; Palich, Christian
> **Subject:** Re: QFRs
>
> Thanks, Bill. Extra time may be difficult in order to make the October 4th markup. I'd hate for you and/or to be delayed. Let us check w the committee to see if there is any flexibility.
>
> _____
>
> **Troy M. Lyons**
> Associate Administrator
> Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
> Ex. 6 (cell)
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Sep 15, 2017, at 4:09 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:
>
>> Gentlemen – I have oral argument in a complex case in the DC Circuit on Tuesday, Sept. 26. From this morning's discussions, it sounds like QFRs will be due on or around that date. If that is the case, I will

need an extra couple of days – hopefully until at least that Thursday – to respond. I will not have time to spend on the QFRs between the confirmation hearing and the oral argument.

<image001.jpg>

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Message

From: Lyons, Troy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=15E4881C95044AB49C6C35A0F5EEF67E-LYONS, TROY]
Sent: 9/15/2017 8:51:31 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: QFRs

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_____

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2017, at 4:09 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

<image001.jpg>

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Message

From: Frye, Tony (Robert) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=58C08ABDFC1B4129A10456B78E6FC2E1-FRYE, ROBER]
Sent: 10/3/2017 9:55:59 PM
To: wwehrum@hunton.com; Gunasekara, Mandy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53d1a3caa8bb4ebab8a2d28ca59b6f45-Gunasekara,]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Dominguez, Alexander [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5ced433b4ef54171864ed98a36cb7a5f-Dominguez,]
Subject: Administrator Pruitt Confirmation Hearing Questions
Attachments: scott-pruitt-qfr-responses-01.18.2017.pdf; Sen Markey Questions - scott-pruitt-qfr-responses-01.18.2017.pdf; Adm. Pruitt Nom Hearing Transcript.pdf

Hello All,

Attached please find the full hearing transcript for Administrator Pruitt's nomination hearing. The dialogue with Senator Markey can be found on pgs. 63-67; 144-149; and 199-203 and the questions from Senator Harris can be found on pgs. 79-86.

I have also attached the questions for the record Administrator Pruitt received following his hearing. Additionally, I specifically pulled questions from Senator Markey; however, Senator Harris did not submit any questions for the record.

Let me know if you have any additional thoughts or questions.

Best,
Tony

Tony Frye
Special Assistant to the Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: 202.564.0640
Cell: Ex. 6

CQ CONGRESSIONAL TRANSCRIPTS
Congressional Hearings
Jan. 18, 2017 - Final

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Holds Hearing on Nomination of Scott Pruitt to be EPA Administrator

LIST OF PANEL MEMBERS AND WITNESSES

BARRASSO:
Good morning. I call this hearing to order. We have quite a full house today. I welcome the audience. This is a formal Senate hearing, and in order to allow the committee to conduct its business, we'll maintain decorum.

That means if there are disorders, demonstrations by a member of the audience, the person causing the disruption will be escorted from the room by the Capitol Police.

Since this is our first hearing of this session, I'd like to welcome our new members, Senators Jerry Moran and Joni Ernst, Tammy Duckworth, and Kamala Harris. Thank you very much, and congratulations in joining the committee.

I'd also like to welcome Senator Tom Carper, in his new role as the ranking member of the committee.

You are here, even if you have a scratchy throat, 40 years from when you were a treasurer of Delaware, member of Congress, governor, member of the U.S. Senate, have not missed a day. You are Cal Ripken, Junior, the Iron Man, so thanks for being here. Thank you. I look forward to looking with you.

Yeah, he deserves applause, that's right.

With regard to procedure, we will follow the early bird rule in terms of the order of member questions. Members who were here at the start, as you all are, will be placed in the line based on your seniority on the committee. Members who arrive after the hearing has started will be added to the line in the order they arrive.

With respect to today's hearing, we'll be -- we'll abide by the committee's five-minute rule. The five minutes includes not just the questions, but also the nominee's answer, so I ask our members to please leave enough time for the nominee to answer your question. Today, we'll have many rounds of questions, as are necessary, so that members' questions are answered.

Today's hearing is to consider the nomination of Attorney General of Oklahoma, Scott Pruitt, to be the administrator the Environmental Protection Agency.

Attorney General Pruitt has been a distinguished public servant as well, and we will hear from his, the same from his fellow Oklahomans today. He served eight years in the Oklahoma State Senate, before being elected attorney general of Oklahoma in November of 2010, where he still serves.

There are numerous statements from his peers and the people that he has helped over the years, that stand as a testament to his strong qualifications to run the Environmental Protection Agency.

Twenty-four state attorneys general wrote to both Ranking Member Carper and to me, stating that quote, "As attorneys general, we understand the need to work collaboratively to address threats to our environment that cross state lines, as well as the importance of a federal counterpart in the EPA administrator, who possesses the knowledge, experience and principles, to work with our states to address issues affecting our environment. We believe that no one exemplifies these qualities more than Scott Pruitt."

Now Attorney General Pruitt has taken on polluters, including the oil industry, when there is cause. Randy Ellis, an award winning investigative reporter with The Oklahoman newspaper, praised Pruitt for his ability to take on industry.

The paper highlighted the work of Attorney General Pruitt to hold a large oil company accountable. This is what Ellis stated. He said, "Mr. Pruitt demonstrated that he will take on industry when they overstep, when he sued oil companies such as BP, who knowingly double- dip by collecting reimbursements for corrective environmental costs for sites that they've polluted."

This is why I believe President-elect Trump nominated Attorney General Pruitt to serve as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA, under the leadership of a qualified and responsible administrator, is a vital tool, that must be used to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and communities where our families live. It's truly a sacred trust.

Colleagues on both sides of the aisle say that Attorney General Pruitt has the right experience for the position. Attorney General Pruitt understands the need to both protect the environment, while allowing our nation's economy to grow. The agency needs a leader who will follow the laws created by this committee.

During the last eight years, EPA administrators created broad and legally questionable new regulations, which have undermined the American people's faith in the agency. These regulations have done great damage to the livelihoods of our nation's hardest working citizens.

The regulatory zeal of the last eight years has violated a fundamental principle of environmental stewardship, which is do no harm. This failed environmental leadership has contributed to two of the worst government-created environmental disasters in decades, the Gold King Mine spill, and Flint Michigan's water crisis. Those disasters hurt people, many from low income and minority communities who can least afford it.

As I've discussed with Attorney General Pruitt, my home state of Wyoming is a leading energy producing state. We have abundant supplies of coal, natural gas, crude oil and uranium. These industries provide thousands of good-paying jobs for Wyoming communities.

We are also, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful states in the nation. We are home to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, and numerous national forests and pristine lakes and waterways. Our wildlife population is diverse and abundant. We have thriving populations of grizzly bears, wolves, elk and bison.

People travel from around the world to come to Wyoming, because our state's natural resources are spectacular. Wyoming has managed to strike that balance between our environment and our economy, and it shows.

For eight years, Wyoming has suffered under an EPA that didn't believe in striking a balance. As EPA regulations crushed energy jobs in my state, state revenue fell, that pays for state programs. This includes paying for our vital environmental programs.

Clearly, a wholesale change is needed. Any new administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency needs to protect the environment in a responsible way, that doesn't ignore the good work that states do to protect their air, land and water, as well as their economies.

At this time, I'd like to ask ranking member, Senator Carper, for an opening statement.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman, thank you. Thank you for bringing us here today. Thank you for your kind, kind words, as well. Let me begin by welcoming our nominee, his wife Marilyn -- Marlyn, and their children, Cade and McKenna, to what's a very important hearing.

Just put -- this past Sunday morning, I rose at dawn, and I went for a long run. It took me through a beautiful state park in the northern part of Delaware.

I reached the park at sunrise, just as the sun was coming up, and the sky was turning a brilliant blue. The winter air was crisp, and clear. Wildlife was all around. In a word, it was perfect. As I ran, I said a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of this moment.

Later that morning, my wife and I went to church, and there we joined our congregation in singing a hymn that began with these words. "For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which formed our birth, over and around us lies. Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise."

Those words filled my heart with emotion then, and they do so again this morning. In a little more than 48 hours, Donald Trump will place his hand on a bible. He'll take an oath to defend our country and constitution. That bible reminds us repeatedly to love our neighbors as ourselves, and it answers the question, who is my neighbor.

Also found in those pages are scores of admonitions with -- about another obligation that those of us who live on this earth are expected to meet. Simply put, we're to serve as stewards of this planet. I believe that we have a moral obligation to do so.

A great many of my colleagues in the Senate agree, and so do most Americans. We need to be convinced that you embrace it as well, not just with your words, but with your deeds. Much of your record suggests otherwise. And today, and in the days that follow, we need to find out where the truth lies.

Leading the Environmental Protection Agency is hard work. That agency, created by President Richard Nixon and a bipartisan Congress, 46 years ago, is tasked with implementing our nation's most important clean air, clean water, and safe chemical laws.

The EPA is required to use sound science to protect both our environment and our public health. By and large, the EPA has done this successfully for decades, while our economy has continued to grow.

Many in this room today may not remember a time before the EPA, a time when states had to work individually to protect citizens in the community in which they lived, a time before the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act were signed into law, a sign when businesses operating throughout the U.S. were faced with a myriad of conflicting state and local laws affecting our health and our environment.

The choking smog and soot of a half century ago seem unfathomable now. Rivers on fire, and deadly toxic plumes sound like something from another world, impossible in our United States of America.

Today we have the luxury of largely forgetting these frightening circumstances, thanks to the efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency, its employees, in partnership with state and local agencies, and with companies across America.

In fact, the EPA and its many partners throughout this country have been so successful, that it's easy for some of us to forget just why this agency is so critical. For some, it's also easy to presume that not much more -- there's not much more for the agency to do, and that just could not be further from the truth.

The environmental threats that we face today are real. They don't respect state boundaries. As we consider a nominee to run our nation's foremost environmental legacy agency, it's worth reminding everyone here why the mission of the EPA is so critical, and just what is at stake.

Over time, my state of Delaware's made -- they have made great strides in cleaning up our own air pollution, but our work only goes so far. Delaware, like many states on the East Coast, sits at the end of what is known as America's tailpipe.

Ninety percent of the air pollution in Delaware comes from outside of the first state, from power plants, hundreds of miles away, in places like Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and across the Midwest.

As governor of Delaware, if I had eliminated every source of air pollution within my state, stopped every combustion source and ordered every motor vehicle off the roads, Delaware would still have faced deadly doses of air pollution.

Should children and others in Delaware really be forced to live with the consequences of decisions made by polluters hundreds or even thousands of miles away, who gain economically from our disadvantage? I don't think so.

Fortunately, the EPA has recently implemented something called the Good Neighbor rule, to make sure that all states do their fair share to clean up the air. Every citizen in this country has a right to breathe clean air, regardless of whether they're in a downwind or an upwind state. That is why we have the EPA.

I remember fishing, as a boy, with my dad, along the Dan River, near my hometown of Danville, Virginia. We brought home the fish that we caught, to eat, and my mom and sister ate them as well.

Today, that quintessential American pastime comes with a warning label. That river, along with countless other polluted streams, rivers and lakes, in all 50 states, are subject to public health advisories, cautioning citizens against eating the mercury-laden fish found in them.

We've known for decades that most of the mercury in our fish come from air pollution, that's emitted from the dirtiest coal plants, and then settles in our water ways. We also know that mercury is a powerful neurotoxin, that accumulates in the human body over time, threatening the health of this environment and this generation, and for generation to come.

The EPA recently issued public health protections to clean up the toxic air pollution from our dirtiest coal plants, allowing families in Delaware and thousands of other communities to once again eat the fish from our rivers, our lakes, our streams, without concern of mercury poisoning. That's why we have the EPA.

Too often, when state and local communities are pinched for cash, they try to save money by short-changing clean air and clean water protections. Improvement to water infrastructure are often times ignored. Corners are cut. Solutions are adopted that may save dollars now, but inflict costly and unnecessary damage later.

As we've seen most recently in the city of Flint, Michigan, these cuts can have a terrible, even a tragic impact on the health of the most vulnerable in our society, especially the youngest among us. Today, the citizens of Flint still lack clean drinking water. And the new generation there, which has been exposed to high levels of lead, faces an uncertain future. That's why we have the EPA.

You may not know it, Mr. Pruitt, but Delaware is the lowest-lying state in our nation. The highest point in Delaware is a bridge. Back home, the reality that our climate is changing is not up for grabs, or up for debate.

Families and business owners face the stark reality of climate change every single day. And tackling that challenge is not just the right thing to do, what is best for Delaware's economy, it is a matter of survival.

Take a ride with me sometime, some 30 miles south of Dover Air Force Base, heading east toward the Delaware Bay on Prime Hook Road, and you'll see what I mean. There was a time, not long ago, where just before you reached the Delaware Bay, you came to a parking lot. Today that parking lot is under water.

Stand there with me, looking to the east, and you'll see part of a concrete bunker sticking up out of the water, about 1 o'clock. Recently, someone showed me a photo taken of that bunker in 1947, the year I was born. It was on dry land, 500 feet west of the water's edge, 500 feet west.

But our little state alone cannot stem the flow of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere that's largely causing our climate to change, our seas to rise, and our coastline to retreat. Every state must do its fair share to safeguard our climate and their neighbors. That is why we have the EPA.

Examples of air and water pollution produced by one state in fouling the air and waters of other can still be found in too many parts of America, like the runoff from Pennsylvania that degrades the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, or the haze exported from other states which often times shrouds the Smoky Mountains and degrades visibility at the Grand Canyon. That's why we have the EPA.

And some of my colleagues describe me as "recovering governor." For the most part, I believe that governors and presidents deserve deference in picking the members of their leadership teams. And as a result, I've given presidents of both parties that deference, in most instances.

Since coming to the Senate in 2001, I've opposed only one of the nominees for EPA administrator, supporting two Republicans, two Democrats nominees. Subsequently, every EPA administrator that I've supported demonstrated clearly that they were committed to furthering the overall mission of the EPA, protecting human health and our environment.

I'm also committed to a full and fair confirmation process, with respect to our nominations that this president-elect has offered, too. And having said that, though, I've shared with Mr. Pruitt, and I'll share with my

colleagues today that too much of what I've seen of his record on the environment, and his views about the role of EPA are troubling, and in some cases, deeply troubling.

Even former Republican Administrator, EPA Administrator Christine Whitman, with whom I served for seven years as governor of neighboring states, recently said that she can't, and I quote, she "can't recall ever having seen an appointment of someone who is so disdainful of the agency and the science behind what the agency does."

Let me conclude with this. It's hard to imagine a more damning statement, and from one who served not long ago in that position of trust, Mr. Pruitt, to which you've been nominated. Today is your opportunity to show that she's gotten it wrong. To be honest with you, coming to this hearing today, I fear that she's gotten it right. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much, Senator Carper.

In a few moments, I'd like to turn to Senator Inhofe and Lankford, from their home state of Oklahoma, regarding the nominee's distinguished career. Before I do that, though, I want to say a few words about Senator Inhofe and his distinguished career as chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

First I want to thank my friend, Jim Inhofe, for his leadership of this committee. His dedication to protecting the environment, rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, strengthening the country's economy, were clearly evident throughout his time as chairman. He worked across party lines to get things done.

During the 114th Congress, under Jim Inhofe's leadership, this committee held 67 hearings. Of those, eight were field hearings. Thirty-two bills passed out of the committee that were signed into law. Chairman Inhofe undersaw -- oversaw the first long-term highway bill in a decade. This law will improve the nation's roads, bridges, transit systems, and rail transportation networks.

He also worked, on a bipartisan basis, with former ranking member, Barbara Boxer, to pass badly needed Water Resources Development Act legislation. This new law prioritizes dam, waterway and port construction projects, and it supports flood control projects that protect millions of people.

For the first time in 40 years, the Toxic Substances Control Act was modernized, under Chairman Inhofe's tenure. This law enacts a new uniform regulatory program that will improve public confidence in the safety of chemicals, promote innovation, and provide manufacturers with certainty regarding regulation.

Chairman Inhofe also worked to keep the administration accountable. Chairman Inhofe worked to ensure that there was oversight of over-reaching administration regulations concerning the clean power plan, Waters of the U.S., the stream buffer rule, coal ash regulations and many more.

So I'm very glad that Senator Inhofe will remain on the committee. I look forward to working closely with him to protect our environment and bolster our nation's economy.

Senator Inhofe, thank you for your hard work, your dedication, and your leadership. Senator Inhofe, you're now recognized, to introduce and talk about Attorney General Pruitt. Thank you.

INHOFE:
Senator Barrasso, thank you very much. And I'm looking forward to working in a very senior position of your committee. And this is the committee that gets things done, as Scott Pruitt's fully aware.

Now, I thank you, Chairman Barrasso, and also you, Senator Carper, for letting me join you for this. And I'm honored to join my fellow senator, Senator Lankford, in introducing not just the attorney general of -- Scott Pruitt, but my good friend, and to offer my support for his nomination to be the next administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Though neither of us were born in Oklahoma, we got here as quick as we could, and both ended up in Tulsa, and so he's also a neighbor. Attorney General Pruitt, you'll be glad to know this (inaudible), but he was born in Kentucky.

And he showed what -- what he was made out of. He ended up a great baseball player, that was -- was able to get a scholarship, and go through the university there. Then he came to Oklahoma and went through law school, at Tulsa University in Tulsa, and did all kind of things. He specialized, at that time, in constitutional law.

In 1998, General Pruitt -- Pruitt ran and was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate, where he served six years, and he quickly became a leader. Indeed, success has followed him throughout his law practice, to the State Senate, to become the co-owner and manager, managing general partner of Oklahoma City's AAA minor league baseball team -- see, we have something in addition to the Thunder, that we're all fully aware of, and is currently Oklahoma's, of course, attorney general.

Through the course of his career, Attorney General Pruitt has stood out as a champion of state and individual rights, and has fought against federal over-reach. He has earned a reputation as a defender of the rule of law, and has worked to keep those -- the role of the federal government in check.

As head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Attorney General Pruitt will ensure that the agency fulfills the role delegated to it by the laws passed by Congress, nothing more, and nothing less. Oklahoma is an energy and agriculture state, but we're also a state that knows what it means to protect the environment, while balancing competing interests.

As attorney general, Scott was instrumental -- oh, this is a big deal. We actually have had an ongoing litigation for 100 years. It was the State of Oklahoma, the City of Oklahoma City, the Choctaw Nation -- the Chickasaw Nation. It was over water rights. And we weren't able to resolve that problem.

This guy comes trotting along and resolves it overnight, after 100 years of failures of trying to get this done. He's also worked with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, to protect the scenic rivers.

He's kind of a hero of the scenic rivers place. People don't -- they don't know, Scott, that we, in Oklahoma, actually have more miles of fresh water shoreline...

(PROTESTER)

BARRASSO:
I would ask the senator to please...

INHOFE:
Yes.

BARRASSO:
... suspend his remarks for a few seconds, maybe. Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

INHOFE:
They obviously don't like scenic rivers, but we do, in Oklahoma.

Anyway, additionally, in 2012, Oklahoma partnered with three other states, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Texas, to bring together state officials, conservation groups, energy and ag industries, and other private land owners, to address the challenges facing one of our -- one of the problems that we have there, having to do with a, what might become a -- an endangered species.

It was an effort that saw success in its first year. Now this is working with four -- four different states. Despite endorsing the plan, the Fish and Wildlife Service moved forward with listing the species as threatened, endangering the cooperation reached between these varying interests.

So Attorney General Scott sued the Fish and Wildlife Department for ignoring the unique cooperative agreement, and he won. He wins. He wins these things. Yes, as attorney general, the -- Scott Pruitt has fought the EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the oil companies, and the out of -- outgoing administration, on many fronts.

But all of these suits were brought to protect state and local interests from over-zealous and activist executive agencies. Over the last eight years, the Obama administration has advanced a radical environmental agenda, has exhibited a deep distrust of state governments and private land owners, and has worked to obstruct the fossil fuel industry and agriculture producers, the most ardent protectors of the environment.

These are industries and interests that Oklahoma relies on. And far from being an enemy of the environment, Scott has proven himself to be an expert at balancing economic growth with environmental super -- stewardship.

So I believe that Attorney General Pruitt will return the Environmental Protection Agency to its proper role as a steward for the environment, acting within the bounds prescribed by Congress and the Constitution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

Senator Lankford.

LANKFORD:
Chairman Barrasso, thank you. Ranking Member Carper, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to be able to be here today, to introduce my fellow Oklahoma, and for Senator Inhofe and I to both be able to stand with him, and to be able to introduce who we believe will be a tremendous nominee for the, as administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. It's an honor to speak in support of Attorney General Pruitt today.

Over the past six years, Scott has been a leader in the State of Oklahoma, strongly committed to enforcing the law and adhering to the Constitution. He's a statesman. He's a dedicated public servant. As the administrator of the EPA, I would fully expect Scott to lead the agency to follow every environmental law, and to partner with states, local authorities, and tribes, to do what's best for our present and for our future.

As attorney general of Oklahoma, he stood shoulder to shoulder with more than half of the states, to ensure the federal government operates within the bounds of the statute and the Constitution. He's argued consistently that many regulations that the EPA promulgates are, in fact, the responsibilities of state governments, first.

In an environment where Chevron deference is precedent, it is critical that the leader of an agency has -- that has such wide latitude to extract cost from the economy, also respects the importance of our federalist foundation, and the pocketbooks of hard- working families.

In previous congressional testimony, Scott has emphasized the importance of laws like the Clean Air Act, stressing that it -- stressing that the intention was for states and the EPA to work together, under a model of cooperative federalism, that protects the environment, while considering economic cost.

As attorney general, Pruitt -- as attorney general, Scott has been an ardent defender of the rule of law for Oklahomans. In 2012, he sued British Petroleum, arguing that they knowingly doubled-dipped, through the collection of funds, through a cleanup fund, despite having insurance coverage for environmental cleanup. He did not hesitate to stand up for his constituents and for his state.

Mike Turpen is the former attorney general of the State of Oklahoma, and the former chairman of the Oklahoma Democratic Party. He spoke out in mid-December, when Scott was first announced. Let me just read a short portion of his very long statement in support of Scott Pruitt.

Former Attorney General Mike Turpen, and our former Democratic Party Chairman said, "Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is a good choice to head up the Environmental Protection Agency. I'm convinced Scott Pruitt will work to protect our natural habitats, reserves and resources. His vision for a proper relationship between protection and prosperity makes him a superbly qualified to serve as our next EPA administrator."

Scott is an active member, and a deacon at his church, First Baptist Church Broke Arrow, a congregation of almost 2,000 people. He's incredibly strong in his faith, and he strives to walk in integrity. Scott's a serious baseball fan as well. If you run out of environmental or legal questions today, which I doubt you will, but if you run out, why don't you ask him a couple of questions about baseball strategy and spring training, which starts in just a few weeks.

I have to tell you, Scott's a friend. I've prayed with Scott. I've seen Scott struggle with hard decisions that affect our state's future. I've seen Scott listen to people, to try to learn all sides of an issue, and I've seen Scott take difficult stands on matters of law.

I think he'll be an excellent administrator for the EPA. And I think he'll do very well today, in getting a chance to bring you the confidence that he will work hard for our nation's present, and for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Well thank you so very much, Senator Lankford, and Senator Inhofe. Senator Lankford, you're welcome to stay, but you can't stay in that seat. So...

LANKFORD:
You got it.

BARRASSO:
Now I would like to welcome Attorney General Pruitt to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Welcome. I invite you to first introduce your family, and then proceed with your statement. Congratulations, and welcome.

PRUITT:
Good morning, Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, members of the committee. It is an honor and a privilege to be before you today, to be considered for the position of EPA administrator.

I first want to say thank you to Senators Inhofe and Lankford for their opening comments. Senator Inhofe has been a mentor and a friend to me, many, many years. And he's spent a lot of time through -- with me through this process, introducing me to many of you. And I really appreciate his guidance and his help. Senator Lankford was a friend well before he entered Congress, and he's already serving Oklahoma and his country with great distinction.

Mr. Chairman, you indicated to introduce my family. I am blessed today, to have my family in attendance with me. My wife, Marlyn, of 27 years, is in attendance, along with my children, McKenna and Cade. There's a little change going on in their life, as well.

McKenna is actually graduating from Oklahoma University this spring, and heading into Senator Whitehouse's alma matter, the University of Virginia law school. And my son is going to be graduating high school and heading to Oklahoma University, following his sister's footsteps, to be a Boomer Sooner.

So there's lots of change going on in their lives, lots of change going on in my family's life, and lots of change going on in the country. And I think the people of this country are really hungry for some change. And with change comes an opportunity for growth, an opportunity to assess how we can reprioritize, as a nation.

And when I ponder leading the EPA, I get excited about the great work to be done in behalf of our nation, in protecting the stewards -- in being a good steward of the natural resources we have as a nation. What could be more important than protecting our nation's waters, improving our air, and managing the land that we've been blessed with as a nation, all the while protecting the health and welfare of our people?

So if confirmed, I would lead the EPA with the following principles in mind. First, we must reject, as a nation, the false paradigm, that if you're pro-energy, you're anti-environment, and if you're pro-environment, you're anti-energy. I utterly reject that narrative.

In this nation, we can grow our economy, harvest the resources God has blessed us with, while also being good stewards of the air, land and water by which we've been favored. It is not an either/or proposition.

Next, we should celebrate the great progress we've made as a nation since the inception of the EPA, and the laws that have been passed by this body, but recognize that we have much work to do.

Third, rule of law matters. Process matters. It inspires confidence in those that are regulated. The law is static, not transient. Regulators are supposed to make things regular, to fairly and equitably enforce the rules, and not pick winners and losers.

A regulator should not be for or against any sector of our economy. Instead, a regulator ought to follow the law in setting up the rules, so that those who are regulated can plan, allocate resources to meet the standards, versus operating in a state of uncertainty and duress.

Fourth, federalism matters. It matters because Congress says so, and because we need it to achieve good outcomes as a nation for air and water quality. We need the partnership of the states to achieve that. It is our state regulators who oftentimes best understand the local needs and the uniqueness of our environmental challenges. Plus, our state regulators possess the resources and expertise to enforce our environmental laws.

Fifth, public participation is key. We need to hear all voices, as we make decisions in behalf of our country, with respect to environmental laws.

Two final things, personally. I seek to be a good listener, to listen, and to lead. You can't do one without the other. Listen to those career staff...

(PROTESTER)

Listen to those career staff at the EPA, as I've done as attorney general of Oklahoma, and listen to you here in Congress, with respect to the needs of your respective states, and listen to the voice of all Americans, as we seek to carry out our duties under the law.

Lastly, and this is very important, I seek to serve with servility. Oftentimes, as policy-makers, you deal with very contentious issues. I have, as attorney general of Oklahoma, as well. We deal with weighty issues, and there are -- there's passion on both sides of issues.

But we should not succumb to personalizing matters. We should encourage open and civil discourse. One such issue where civil discourse is absent, involves climate change. Let me say to you, science tells us that the climate is changing, and that human activity, in some manner, impacts that change.

The ability to measure, with precision, the degree and extent of that impact, and what to do about it, are subject to continuing debate and dialogue, and well it should be. So with these principles in mind, I seek to answer your questions today, and I am honored to be here today to be considered for the position of EPA administrator.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Well thank you very much. Welcome, to your family, and thank you, and congratulations again.

Attorney General Pruitt, you've answered the committee questionnaire. The United States Office of Government Ethics has stated that you are, quote, "in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest."

Now, you know, throughout this hearing, and with the questions for the records, our committee members will have an opportunity to learn more about your commitment to public servant and our nation. I would ask that, throughout this hearing, you please respond to the questions, for the record.

With that said, I have to ask the following questions that we ask of all nominees on behalf of the committee. Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear before this committee or designated members of this committee, and other appropriate committees of the Congress, and provide information, subject to appropriate and necessary security protection, with respect to your responsibilities?

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Do you agree to ensure that testimony, briefings, documents and electronic and other forms of information are provided to this committee and its staff, and other appropriate committees, in a timely manner?

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:

And do you know of any matters, which you may or may not have disclosed, that might place you in any conflict of interest if you are confirmed?

PRUITT:
No, Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Just a couple of quick questions before we go back and forth. I'd just ask if you could just please describe your environmental philosophy, of what you would do to protect our environment.

PRUITT:
Well, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in my opening statement, I believe that the role of a regulator -- and this may not sound too exciting, but is to make things regular. And I think, one of the -- the difficult challenges we see, with individuals across the country, is the ability -- the inability to predict, or know what's expected of them, as far as their obligations under our environmental laws.

And -- and I really believe, Mr. Chairman, that if confirmed as EPA administrator, this public participation, cooperative federalism, rule of law being the focus of how we do business at the EPA, is center to restoring confidence and certainty in those that are regulated.

Clearly, the mission of the EPA, as I indicated in my opening statement, to protect our natural resources, protecting our water quality, improving our air, helping protect the health and welfare of our citizens, is key to the leadership of the EPA, and where enforcement is necessary, a vigorous enforcement.

I've done that as attorney general in Oklahoma. I've taken very constructive steps against those that have violated the law. But we have done so, I think, in a very decisive and -- and meaningful way, so Mr. Chairman, with that in mind.

BARRASSO:

I'm going to ask one other question, and then I'm going to reserve the -- the balance of my time for some interjection and questioning throughout. But there's still a number of environmental problems that I see in the country and in my state.

Cold war legacy pollution is a serious problem, where chemical compounds are left deep in the soil, from our military activity, years -- decades ago. Often there are not the tools yet available to adequately address this pollution. If confirmed, would you advocate increasing the EPA's focus on innovative technological solutions to address these and other environmental problems?

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman. In this -- this Congress, this past Congress, as you indicated in your statement, and as Senator Inhofe recognized, with the changes to the TSCA law, there are priorities this year, new authority, actually, that's being given to the EPA administrator, to order testing on certain chemicals.

As I've spent time with some of the members on this committee, Senator Gillibrand, as an example, mentioned PFOA, as a concern, with respect to the Safe Drinking Water Act, along with TSCA.

And so yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe that there are priorities that are key to improving our environment, from CERCLA, to TSCA, across air quality, with non-attainment to attainment, and would seek to focus, and prioritize those efforts.

BARRASSO:
Thank you.

Senator Carper.

CARPER:
Mr. Pruitt, you know, we don't often have the kind of disruptions in this room, and in this building, that was witnessing here today. This is extraordinary. It's not unprecedented, but extraordinary.

And people might ask, well why -- why are folks so concerned? Well I'll tell you why they're so concerned. And you'll have to go back to March 3rd, up in Detroit, Michigan, where President-Elect, then Candidate Trump, Donald Trump said these words.

"We're going to get rid of it, EPA, in almost every form. We're going to have little tidbits left, but we're going to take a tremendous amount out." That's what he said during the Republican primary.

And what did he say after the election? Well, November 10th, Fox News with Chris Wallace, he said, "Environmental Protection, what they do is a disgrace. Every week they come out with new regulations."

And then Chris Wallace asked him, "Well who's going to protect the environment?" He said, responded to him and said, "Well, we'll -- we'll be fine with the environment. We'll be fine with the environment."

Well we're concerned that we won't be fine with the environment. Sometimes words do matter. And one of the -- one of the concerns that I have is -- is, he's the president. You would be his nominee. You would be his EPA administrator.

Does all -- all the things that he said in the campaign, do they just go away? In you, he's put somebody in place who has actually defunded, or led to the defunding of the environmental protection unit within your own agency. And yet you've joined in a dozen or more lawsuits, over the last six years, ever since you've been attorney general, in going after the EPA.

That's why you have the kind of concern that you're witnessing here today, not just on that side of the dais, but on -- on this side as -- as well.

You just took an oath. You raised your hand and took an oath to answer the questions, questions that our chairman asked of you. And one of them was a question dealing with your willingness to -- to respond to reasonable questions that are asked of -- of you.

One of the things I ask of you, I submitted a letter, that I think you received in, shortly after Christmas, December -- maybe December 28th, close of business. And in it, I asked a lot of questions. I asked that you try to respond by January 9th.

You didn't respond to one of them by January 9th. You certainly didn't respond to me, not even one. Today's hearing, I just asked my staff, have you responded to any of those questions, in writing, that I asked almost three weeks ago, and to my knowledge, no response has yet been -- that we've received. That's why we have a concern. That's why we have a -- a concern.

Mercury.

PRUITT:
I'm sorry?

CARPER:
I'm going to ask you -- I'm going to start off by talking about mercury. In 2011, the EPA required dirty coal power plants to clean up mercury and air toxic emissions by issuing the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards Rule.

This rule will reduce the mercury and neurotoxin that contaminates our stream, and our oceans, pollutes our fish and harms our children's health. As attorney general, I believe you've been part of at least 14 legal cases against the EPA, in at least three of these cases, against the EPA's rules to reduce mercury emissions from power plants.

Is that correct, just yes or no?

PRUITT:
Senator, we have been involved in litigation around the MATS Rule...

CARPER:
Is that correct, yes or no?

PRUITT:
As I indicated, yes we've been a part of litigation...

CARPER:
Thank you.

PRUITT:
... following the MATS Rule.

CARPER:
It's my understanding that at least one these cases against the mercury rule is still pending. Is that correct? Just yes or no.

PRUITT:
I believe so, Senator. Yes.

CARPER:
In the cases against the mercury rule, you questioned the EPA's determination that mercury emissions from power plants are harmful to health, and should be regulated.

To be clear, have you ever supported a case against the EPA that claimed, quote -- this is a quote, "Human exposure to methyl mercury resulting from coal fired power plants is exceedingly small"? Yes or no.

PRUITT:
Senator, that's not a yes or no answer. And if I may -- if I may...

CARPER:
Fair enough.

PRUITT:
OK.

CARPER:
This position seems to question a, an EPA decision in 2000, in which the agency determined, after almost a decade of study, that -- this is a quote from them, "Mercury emissions from power plants pose significant hazards to public health and must be reduced," close quote.

Would you say the legal cases you've supported in the past directly challenged this agency finding? Yes or no.

PRUITT:
Senator, the -- the challenges we've had, as a -- as a -- as a state...

CARPER:
Yes or no?

PRUITT:
... along with the other states...

CARPER:
Yes or no?

PRUITT:
If I may, Senator -- if I may.

CARPER:
Just -- just hold your fire. Just hold your fire.

PRUITT:
OK.

CARPER:
The legal position you've taken on mercury health also seems to call in question the 2003 testimony from then EPA Assistant Administrator of Air and Radiation, Jeff Holmstead, under George W. Bush, sat right where you're sitting today, and this is what he said.

"EPA is required to regulate mercury, because EPA determined that mercury emissions from power plants pose an otherwise unaddressed significant risk to health and the environment, and because controls, options to reduce this risk are available."

This Bush EPA statement on mercury risk seems contrary to the legal arguments you supported in the past. Is that correct? Yes or no.

PRUITT:

I agree with -- I agree with Mr. Holmstead's position, that mercury is something that's very dangerous to the environment...

CARPER:
Thank you very much.

PRUITT:
... and should be regulated under Section 112.

CARPER:
Are you aware that the last three administrators have publicly stated that the EPA is required to regulate mercury from power plants because of the health risks? Yes or no.

PRUITT:
I believe that mercury should be regulated under Section 112.

CARPER:
Thank you very much. According to the EPA -- my time is about to expire. I'll just hold -- hold it for there. Thank you very much, Mr. -- Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Carper.

Senator Inhofe?

INHOFE:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Well, I don't think you had adequate time to answer some of the questions that were asked. Is there anything you'd like to add, to elaborate on...

PRUITT:

Yes, Senator. And thank you. I do want to say, to Senator Carper's concern, with respect to the president-elect's statements throughout the campaign, I believe there is a very important role for the Environmental Protection Agency. In fact, you and I talked about that in -- in your office.

I believe that there are air quality issues, and water quality issues, that cross state line, that the jurisdiction of the EPA, its involvement in protecting our air quality, and improving our nation's waters, is extremely important. And the EPA has served a very valuable role, historically.

After all, it was Republicans who created the EPA under executive order in the 1970, and this body has passed many pieces of legislation since the 1970s, to focus upon improving our air, improving our water quality. And we have much to celebrate.

Actually, those six criteria pollutants, under the MATS program, since 1980, are down 63 percent. We have made progress as a country, but we have work to do, and the EPA has a very valuable role in partnering with the states to carry out those steps to ensure improving our air quality and protecting our nations waters.

So Senator Carper, I'm hopeful that, in response to your concern about the role of the EPA, I believe it's a very valuable role. And it's something that we should focus on, and partner with our states.

With respect to mercury, the litigation that you referred to, there was no argument that we made, from a state perspective, that mercury is not a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112. Our argument focused upon the cost-benefit analysis that the EPA failed to do.

And the Michigan v. EPA case, the Supreme Court actually agreed. So it was more about the process, again, that the EPA was supposed to go through, in regulating mercury, to provide certainty those in the marketplace, not a statement with respect to whether mercury should be regulated or not under Section 112.

Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

INHOFE:

Thank you, General. I've -- I'm glad you brought up this thing about the -- the Clean Air Act. The amendments from 1990, I was one of the co-sponsors. It's been incredibly successful. I mean, you mentioned that we've reduced those pollutants by 53 percent, but what you didn't -- 63 percent, what you didn't add was, that was in spite of the fact that we had 153 percent increase in our economic activity. That's a major thing.

In my introduction, I mentioned this thing that you did that no one could figure out how you did it. Involved a 100-year dispute between not just the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City, and the Chockchaws (sic) and the Chickasaws. You want to share with us how you did that?

PRUITT:
What are you...

INHOFE:
You know, they tried for a hundred years, and you came in and did it in less than a hundred days.

PRUITT:
Yeah, less than eight months in to my administration as attorney general, we were sued, as a state, by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nation with respect to water, in 17 counties in Southeast Oklahoma.

Many of you, if you know anything about water litigation, it generally takes decades to resolve water litigation. We were able to go from August of 2011 until 2016, and negotiate an historic water rights agreement with those two nations, to provide certainty to those that are regulated, to provide a voice to the tribes, in -- with respect to water allocation, and water quality.

And the state has maintained its position of the arbiter of how those permits are allocated as well. So it was a partnership. It was the way things ought to work, when litigation occurs, sitting across the table from individuals, and working together to try to solve the problem.

And Senator, we were able to achieve that in record time, and I'm very proud of what we did, as a state, and as the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nation together.

INHOFE:
Yeah, that's good. I think, also, you got them all in one room, didn't you?

PRUITT:
Yes, sir.

INHOFE:
That works. You may criticize, and some of the people talking about your -- your environmental record, I would like to be sure that people are aware of -- a number of people -- I have some here, that I'll submit for the record, but a guy named Ed Fite is the vice president of Scenic Rivers and the water quality of the GRDA.

This is a person who has really been at the forefront of our Scenic Rivers program. He praises you, saying "I found that General Pruitt has always done right by our scenic rivers. He's done everything constructive that he told me that he would do."

The same thing comes from the North Carolina Department of Environment Quality, Donald van der Vaart, he wrote, "Pruitt is committed to clean air and clean water, and to restoring the EPA to its original mission of enforcing the environmental laws written by Congress."

J.D. Strong, head of the Water Resources Board, he said, "Attorney General Pruitt" and he goes on and praises you. I'd like to know why it is you have become a hero of the Scenic River people.

PRUITT:
Well Senator, as you know, Oklahoma has endured many decades of dispute, with respect to phosphorous levels in the scenic Illinois River. In fact, there's been litigation that's been a part of that dispute for some time.

There was actually a memorandum of understanding that Arkansas and Oklahoma entered into around 2002, 2003, and that memorandum expired during my time as attorney general. There were many in government at the time that said we should just wait on the EPA to come in and address the issue. And I chose a different path.

I actually reached out to my Democrat colleague, Dustin McDaniel, the attorney general of the State of Arkansas, and we were able to negotiate an agreement that had phosphorous levels set at 0.037, scientifically driven, and enforced on both sides of the border, for the first time in history.

And so I think Mr. Fite is actually the head of Scenic Illinois Rivers Commission (sic). He's been center on this issue for a number of years. And I think his good word relates to the work that we did, in my office, working with Dustin McDaniel to achieve that good outcome.

INHOFE:
Yeah. I know my time has expired, but Mr. Chairman, I'd like to enter into the record, at this point in the record, the statement by the Environmental -- the DEQ, that I referred to.

BARRASSO:
Without objection, hearing none.

Senator Whitehouse.

WHITEHOUSE:
Thanks, Chairman. Welcome to the committee, Mr. Pruitt. As we discussed when you and I met, the oceans off of our ocean state are warming, due to fossil-fuel-driven climate change. It is crashing our fisheries, like lobster and winter flounder, and making earning a living harder for our fishermen. I see nothing in your career to give those fishermen any confidence that you will care one bit for their well-being, and not just the well-being of the fossil fuel industry.

In a process that you could replicate in an Oklahoma high school science lab, excess carbon dioxide from fossil fuel emissions is turning our seas more acid. Rhode Island shell fishermen and shellfish growers are concerned. In my colleague, Senator Merkley's state, they've already had oyster spat wiped out for businesses by acidified waters. I see nothing in your career that you would care at all about our Rhode Island shell fishermen.

In Rhode Island, we have bad air days. And because of EPA's work, they are fewer and fewer. A bad air day is a day when people driving into work hear on the radio that ozone from out-of-state smoke stacks has made the air in Rhode Island dangerous, and that infants, and the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties should stay home, on an otherwise beautiful day.

Because those smokestacks are out of state, we need EPA to protect us, and I see nothing in your record that would give a mom taking her child to the hospital for an asthma attack any comfort that you would take the slightest interest in her.

And your passion for devolving power down to states doesn't help us, because our state regulators can't do anything about any of those problems. They all come from out-of-state sources. In this respect, we are very like Delaware.

One of the things I'd like to ask you about here is the connection between you and some of these fossil fuel companies. This is -- these are some of the companies that have supported you. These are some of the political organizations that you've raised money for. You've raised money for them for -- for Pruitt for attorney general, correct?

PRUITT:
Yes, sir. I have a campaign committee that -- yes.

WHITEHOUSE:
And Devon Energy, Koch Industries, Exxon Mobil have all maxed out to that account...

PRUITT:
I'm not aware if it's...

WHITEHOUSE:
... at various times?

PRUITT:
-- maxed out or not, Senator, but they have -- I'm sure they have given

to the -- to that committee.

WHITEHOUSE:
Oklahoma Strong PAC is your leadership PAC?

PRUITT:
It was, yes.

WHITEHOUSE:
It was? And similarly, they gave money, they maxed out to that organization as well, which you control?

PRUITT:
I'm not sure about that, Senator.

WHITEHOUSE:
OK. They contributed to it?

PRUITT:
I'm even unsure about that, as well. I haven't looked at that.

WHITEHOUSE:
You closed your super PAC, Liberty 2.0, but that took fossil fuel contributions as well, correct?

PRUITT:
That -- that particular entity has been closed, yes.

WHITEHOUSE:
Now, you helped raise money for the Republican Attorney Generals Association (sic) while you were a member of its executive committee. They received $530,000 from Koch Industries, $350,000 from Murray Energy, $160,000 from Exxon Mobil, and $125,000 from Devon Energy, a company whose letter you transposed onto your letterhead, and sent as an Oklahoma attorney general document.

Did you solicit, in your role at the Republican Attorney Generals Association (sic), any of that funding?

PRUITT:
I'm unable to confirm if they gave those numbers, Senator, those amounts that you -- there were several on the list there... `
WHITEHOUSE: Did you solicit funding from them, as -- in your role at the Republican Attorney Generals Association (sic)?

PRUITT:
I attended fundraising events as an attorney general, along with other attorneys general, with respect to the RAGA.

WHITEHOUSE:
And did you solicit? Did you ask them for money?

PRUITT:
That...

WHITEHOUSE:
For RAGA?

PRUITT:
As I -- as I indicated, I attended fundraising events with...

WHITEHOUSE:
But that's different. Attending a fundraising is one thing. Asking them, is my question. Did you ask them for money?

PRUITT:
I mean, specifically, you would have to ask about certain -- certain entities. I don't know -- you can go through an entire list...

WHITEHOUSE:
Go through the entities. Koch Industries, Murray Energy, Exxon Mobil,

Devon Energy.

PRUITT:
I did not ask of Koch, or -- or that -- what were the other ones?

WHITEHOUSE:
Murray Energy, Exxon Mobil, Devon Energy.

PRUITT:
I -- I have not asked them for money, for -- on behalf of RAGA.

WHITEHOUSE:
And then we have -- you said to the Chairman that there is nothing that might place you in a conflict of interest, that you have not disclosed. Yet you founded the Rule of Law Defense Fund, which is a dark money operation that supports the Republican Attorney Generals Association (sic), and you have not disclosed any of your solicitations for that entity, nor have you disclosed what money was raised pursuant to those solicitations.

This is an organization that appears to have a million dollar a year budget. So very substantial funds have been solicited. I believe you were its chairman. Will you disclose your role in soliciting money and in receiving money for the Rule of Law Defense Fund pursuant to your solicitation?

PRUITT:
Senator, a point of clarification. I actually did not start, nor initiate the Rule of Law Defense Fund. That is something I didn't...

WHITEHOUSE:
You led it.

PRUITT:
... do. I've been a -- an officer of that organization...

WHITEHOUSE:
OK.

PRUITT:
... for 2016.

WHITEHOUSE:
An officer of it.

PRUITT:
There is an executive staff, fundraisers that actually carry out the functions of that organization. There are many attorneys general that serve on that board. It's not a decision of one. It's a -- it's a decision of those that have been empowered to make those decisions.

WHITEHOUSE:
But you haven't told us anything about that. You haven't told us...

PRUITT:
I have no access...

WHITEHOUSE:
... who you asked money...

PRUITT:
That -- that's a...

WHITEHOUSE:
... from. You haven't told us what they gave, if you asked them. It's a complete black hole, into which, at least a million dollars goes. And based on your record of fundraising, it appears that a great deal of your fundraising comes from these organizations who are in the energy sector and devoted to fighting climate change.

PRUITT:
Some of who -- some of whom I've actually sued as well, Senator. But with respect to the role that...

WHITEHOUSE:
Name one you've sued up there.

PRUITT:
Exxon Mobil.

WHITEHOUSE:
Really?

PRUITT:
Yes.

WHITEHOUSE:
My time has expired. We'll pursue this in further questioning.

PRUITT:
Yeah. We're -- we're involved in -- as I indicated, I think, in -- in your office, we are involved in -- and Senator Inhofe mentioned it in his comments, a situation in Oklahoma where multiple oil and gas companies, ConocoPhillips and others, have defrauded the state, in cleanup, with respect to spills that have occurred. And Exxon Mobil...

WHITEHOUSE:
Yeah, it's a qui tam fraud case. It has nothing to do with the environment.

PRUITT:
Senator, I would -- I would beg to disagree.

BARRASSO:

I think we're going to reserve that for the second -- for the second round.

WHITEHOUSE:
Or I'm sorry. He was coming back to me, so I was responding. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Before heading to Senator Capito, there are two articles I'll be introducing into the record, one from the Wall Street Journal in September, headlined, "Hillary Clinton Raises More than Donald Trump from Oil Industry."

The second article that I'll be introducing for the record is from Politico, from December 27th, by Elena Shore, who quotes American Rising (sic) Executive Director Brian Rogers, quote, "This is a partisan fishing expedition by six liberal Democrats who, combined, have taken more than $1.2 million from far left environmental group, dead set against any reforms to an out-of-control EPA."

Senator Capito.

CAPITO:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Attorney General Pruitt, for being here, for your willingness to throw your hat in the ring to serve. I'd like to quote the ranking member, when he says it's hard work, because it is. The EPA is hard work.

But one of the things you said really struck me, and I -- I believe that the rule of law does matter. And I'm heartened by your -- your passion for that. The regulatory over-reach of the EPA has contributed to economic devastation in my state of West Virginia in the -- in my region.

Data from the Mine Safety and Health Administration shows that 60,000 coal jobs have been lost between 2011 and 2016. Thousands of these are in West Virginia. We're in a desperate situation in our state right now because of this.

We had a field hearing in Beckley, West Virginia, where our WVU economist, John Deskins, said that the coal industry downturn had resulted in a sixth of our Southern West Virginia counties being in a great depression.

For the past eight years, the EPA's given no indication at all that it cares about the economic impact of its policies. Even though Congress has said, very clearly, in the Clean Air Act, and other environmental statutes, that we expect jobs and economic factors to be taken into account -- that's part of the law, in October, a federal court held that the EPA had failed to evaluate the job impact to the EPA Clean Air Act as required by 321(a) of that act, and ordered the EPA to submit a schedule for conducting these economic -- the required jobs analysis.

Incredibly, the EPA told the court it would take two years -- this was just this past -- it was just in the last several weeks, it would take two years just to come up with a plan on how to do the analysis, which, in my view, if that's part of the law that EPA's supposed to be following, they should already have the protocols set up to do an effective and accurate job analysis.

So the court responded like this. "This response is wholly inefficient, unacceptable and unnecessary. It evidences the continued hostility on the part of the EPA to the acceptance of the mission established by Congress."

So I would at -- like to ask you to commit to me that -- to ensure that the EPA will follow the law it is charged with implementing, and do those ongoing evaluation of job losses and economic shifts due to the requirements of the act as required by the law.

PRUITT:
Senator, as you indicated, I really believe that it's important that rule of law is adhered to, because it inspires confidence in those that are regulated. I think, oftentimes, those that are regulated don't know what's expected of them.

They look at a statute. They see the requirements of the statute. And then those that are regulating act in a way that's not consistent with that framework. And so they don't know what's expected of them, and that causes uncertainty, and I think, paralysis, to a certain degree.

So rule of law is something that we should take seriously. It's been at the heart of the litigation that we have initiated, as a state. A lot of times, these cases, as we were talking earlier with Senator Carper, there's a policy or political kind of attention that's drawn to it.

But it really is about process and rule of law, and making sure that the framework that this body, Congress has established, is respected, and enforced. And so I appreciate your comments.

CAPITO:
Well, in looking for the balance, we need to have -- we need to have at least a correct analysis of what the -- the economic implications are of regulations.

It's so important, and critically important that we enforce our environmental laws, and to continue to keep our air clean and our -- get it cleaner and protect our waters. In January of 2014, a storage tank in Charleston, West Virginia, was corrupted and it went into the river.

It was right by the -- the water flow of the -- the major water source in my community. Three hundred thousand people had to do without water for several weeks. It caused a lot of angst, economically, to small businesses. Imagine a restaurant not being able to use water, or you can't, you know, wash your clothes. You couldn't do anything with the water.

But also -- and -- and I share this concern -- concern about the health and the long-range implications of what's happened, several people, multiple individuals and Freedom Industries have pled guilty into environmental crimes in federal court, which I'm very pleased about.

So let's talk about TSCA, because in TSCA, I was able to support a provision that would say that if you -- if you're storing in close proximity to drinking water, you have to take that into consideration when you're reviewing potentially hazardous chemicals.

Can we count on you to work with this committee to make sure that this bipartisan TSCA reform bill is fully implemented, and efficiently and fully?

PRUITT:

Absolutely, Senator. In fact, I would commend the work of this committee, with Senator Inhofe's leadership, in passing that update to the TSCA legislation. For the first time in history, as you know, the EPA has the ability to order testing to address chemicals that are going to be entered into the stream of commerce.

And that's a very big, substantive change that exists. There are many deadlines. And...

CAPITO:
And I would also add, that in TSCA -- excuse me just a minute, because I'm running out of time. In TSCA, we actually expanded the EPA's reach.

So when you're asked if you -- if -- if you're, you know, wanting to, you know, get rid of the EPA, or it doesn't have a value, we -- I voted to expand that reach of EPA, to make sure that I have clean water, and that a spill happens in a community around this country, or what's happened in Flint, Michigan, doesn't have the far-reaching implications that it does. Thank you very much.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

BARRASSO:
Senator Cardin.

CARDIN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt...

PRUITT:
Good morning.

CARDIN:
... welcome to the committee. Thank you for your willingness to serve our country.

I want to talk about the Chesapeake Bay Program. We talked about that in my office. I explained to you, and I'll do it very quickly, that this is a program that was developed at the state level, with the states that are in the watershed, including Delaware, with my colleague, Senator Carper.

It's the state that the locals have determined how it's best to reach their pollution targets, in order to help preserve the Chesapeake Bay. It's the largest estuary in the northern hemisphere. It's critically important. It's complicated, doesn't flush itself as -- as many bodies of water does. It's, has a reduction of oyster crops. There's so many problems.

All the stakeholders have gotten together. They've worked out a plan. The federal government is part of that plan. It's enforced through the TMDL program, and it has been agreed to by the local governments.

It was challenged, the TMDLs, including -- you joined that lawsuit. The Supreme Court refused to overturn the court of appeals' supporting the use of the TMDLs. If you are confirmed, will you support the federal role in the Chesapeake Bay Program, as envisioned by the partners and stakeholders, in enforcing the TMDLs, if necessary?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. And as I indicated in our office, in our time -- the time that we had together, I really commend the six states that joined together to address the Chesapeake Bay, and to try to set a level for both point source and non-point source type of discharge into the Chesapeake Bay.

There were some concerns about the precedent, the role that EPA was playing, initially. But through that litigation, the EPA has acknowledged that their role is more informational. And -- and there was concern in Oklahoma about the Mississippi River Basin, and the precedent that was set in that matter, and that's what spawned our litigation.

But I really want to emphasize to you, that process represents what should occur. For states to join together, and enter into an agreement to address water quality issues, and then involve the EPA to serve the role it's supposed to serve, is something that should be commended and celebrated.

And as it relates to enforcing that TMDL, I can commit to you that, in fact, I will do so.

CARDIN:
Part of the federal government's partnership is to provide resources. There are several programs that fund initiatives within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Probably the largest is the state revolving funds dealing with wastewater.

Will you support the federal government's partnership through funding these programs that are critically important to make the advancements in the Chesapeake Bay watershed?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. I believe that the grant-making role of the EPA, as we talked about in your office, is very important to states across this country, whether it's the revolving funds, or the WIFIA portions of our statutes, but grant-making, in general, is very important, and I will commit to you, in that regard, that -- that -- would -- I would do so, with respect to the Chesapeake Bay.

CARDIN:
I want to continue on clean water for one moment. We've had significant problems with safe drinking water, and clean water. The -- let me ask you preliminary question. Do you believe there is any safe level of lead that can be taken into the human body, particularly a young person?

PRUITT:
Senator, that's something I've not reviewed, nor -- nor know about. I -- I would -- I would be very concerned about any level of lead going into the drinking water, or in -- obviously, human consumption. But I've not looked at the scientific research on that.

CARDIN:
The Clean Water Act provides for a federal guidance as to acceptable clean water. It's enforced by the states. So my question to you, in regards to clean water, is what steps will you take to make sure that our children are safe?

We saw, in Flint, Michigan, a tragedy occur. Where do you think the federal government needs to strengthen its regulatory roles, to make sure that our children are safe from -- from lead?

PRUITT:
Well I think, with Flint, Michigan, it's an example of -- or not -- a delay in response by the EPA. There should have been more done on corrosion control programs, with the Flint, Michigan system. As you know, under the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act, if there's an emergency situation, the EPA can enter an -- an emergency order to address those kinds of concerns.

I think there should have been a more fast response, a more -- a more rapid response to Flint, Michigan. I think, with respect to water quality, it is -- it is infrastructure. Water infrastructure is important. And -- and as you indicated, the states play a very vital role in that process. And there needs to be more cooperation between the EPA and the states to ensure water quality is protected.

CARDIN:
Just so I understand it, you have filed, and participated in several lawsuits against the EPA's involvement, saying that the locals should have the responsibility. If you are confirmed, will you support federal enforcement, particularly in multi-state issues, where the only way we can get enforcement is at the federal level?

PRUITT:
I believe that is a vital role of the EPA, as I've indicated in your office, with air quality, water quality, issues across state line. There is an enforcement mechanism that is important. And -- and would seek to do so if confirmed as EPA administrator.

CARDIN:
Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Cardin.

Senator Fischer.

FISCHER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Pruitt, for being here today, but also for accepting the nomination. It -- it is a service and a sacrifice, not just for you, but for your family, as well, to step forward to serve this country. So thank you, sir for...

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

FISCHER:
... being willing to do that. For your testimony, I do thank you. And I'd like to, first of all, let you know that Nebraskans, they've been really affected by the EPA in many instances, and I will give you some examples of that.

Nebraska's public power utilities are grappling with how they could ever comply with the EPA's carbon emission reduction mandates. The City of Omaha is struggling with the agency's expensive CSO mandate, and drinking water affordability.

Nebraska farmers are waiting on new crop technology products that are stuck in a broken regulatory process. Our biofuel investors and producers are desperate for certainty under the RFS. Homebuilders, transportation stakeholders and local county officials are concerned about the jurisdictional expansion to control our state's water resources.

Communities and small business owners fear that the EPA's ozone mandate will stunt potential economic development and growth in our state. As a result of the activist role the EPA has played for the past eight years, families are concerned about the futures of their livelihood.

We all want clean air. You know, we all want clean water. That is one point that I know each and every person here agrees on. But with the EPA's tremendous impact on Americans' lives, each and every day, it is important that the agency be open, transparent, and answerable for its actions.

Given these concerns, along with the many others that have been, and will continue to be discussed today, what steps will you take, as the EPA administrator, to provide relief for American families, that are faced, truly, with an onslaught of EPA rules?

PRUITT:
Senator, you mentioned open, transparent rulemaking. There are concerns that have been expressed recently, with -- with respect to regulation through litigation, where groups initiate litigation against the -- the EPA, and the United States government, and set environmental policy through something called a "sue and settle" process.

I think this body, as well as the U.S. House, have looked at those kinds of issues. And when we talk about open transparency, there's a reason why the Administrative Procedures Act exists. It is intended to provide notice to those that are going to be impacted with rules, to give them an opportunity to offer comment, and -- and to inform the regulators on the impact of those rules.

And then it's the obligation of the regulator to take those things into consideration in finalizing rules. Otherwise they act in an arbitrary and capricious way. And so it's very important that that process be adhered to, to give voice to all Americans, in balancing the environmental objectives we have, but also the economic harm that results.

And the Supreme Court has spoken about that rather consistently, of late. And I would seek to lead the EPA in such a way to ensure that openness and transparency.

FISCHER:
You know the -- a couple of weeks ago, we had a -- I think we held a very good conversation about our shared vision for the EPA, to bring common sense and accountability back to that agency. And I -- I think that's going to go a long way in restoring confidence in the agency by the American people.

One issue we did discuss was the Renewable Fuel Standard, and its importance to my home state of Nebraska. We are the largest ethanol producer west of the Missouri River. Our neighbors to the east, Senator Ernst's home state, they do lead the nation in ethanol production.

So honoring the congressionally mandated timelines and the volume requirements that are critical, from an investment point of view, and -- and also from a planning perspective, I think that this is especially relevant, and especially during the -- the current farm crisis that we are seeing, and the negative impact on -- on people and agriculture all across this nation.

In our meeting, you did express your commitment to me to honor the law. And you echoed President-elect Trump's support for the statute itself, and a strong RVO. And for the record, can you please, once again, express your commitment to uphold the congressional intent of the RFS?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. And you said it well, to honor the intent, and the expression of the Renewal Fuel Standard statute is very, very important. It's not the job of the administrator of the EPA to do anything other than administer the program according to the intent of Congress, and I commit to you to do so.

FISCHER:
And you...

PRUITT:
And the waiver -- and I would say this. The waivers that routinely are offered by the administrator -- recently another waiver was offered. It should be used judiciously. There's a reason why congress put in that statute those statutory objectives.

The market has changed since 2005, and the waiver authority that's been provided by this body is important. But it -- that waiver authority should be used judiciously. And the act should be complied with and enforced consistent with the will of Congress.

FISCHER:
Thank you, sir. And I would ask that you also tell us publicly what you told us, that you will honor the timelines, on the volume levels that are mandated by Congress, as well.

PRUITT:
Yes. Yes. Yes, Senator.

FISCHER:
Thank you very much.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Fischer.

Senator Merkley.

MERKLEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over a number of years, information started pouring into EPA that the estimate of the amount of fugitive methane escaping in gas and oil drilling, have been deeply underestimated. In 2011, the EPA put out its best estimates, based on the information that was being presented.

And this is relevant because methane is a -- a global warming gas, more potent than CO2. Gas companies didn't like this, because well, it presented a vision natural gas being more damaging, environmentally, than folks had previously understood.

Devon Energy is one of the groups that sought to cast doubt on this scientific information, and they came to you to be their spokesperson. And they asked, will you be our mouthpiece in casting doubt, and send a letter we have drafted to the EPA? And you sent that letter.

And I just want to ask, first, are you aware that methane is approximately 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a global warming gas?

PRUITT:
I am, Senator. It...

MERKLEY:
Thank you.

PRUITT:
The impact on human health...

MERKLEY:
That's the -- that's the answer. Yes. Thank you. It's a yes/no question. And on a 1 to 10 scale, how concerned are you about the impacts of fugitive methane in driving global warming?

PRUITT:
Methane, as you indicated, has a...

MERKLEY:
One to ten scale, highly, ten, very concerned, or one, not so concerned?

PRUITT:
The quantities of methane in the atmosphere, compared to CO2 is less, but it's far more potent, and it is simple...

MERKLEY:
Are you concerned? I'm asking about your level of concern.

PRUITT:
Yes, yes.

MERKLEY:
Highly concerned?

PRUITT:
I'm concerned.

MERKLEY:
Thank you. Do you acknowledge sending this letter to the EPA in October 2011?

PRUITT:
Senator, that is a letter that's on my letterhead, that was sent to the EPA, yes, with respect to the issue...

MERKLEY:
Do you acknowledge that 97 percent of the words in that letter came directly from Devon Energy?

PRUITT:
You know, I've not looked at the -- the percentage of similar...

MERKLEY:
The statement that's been analyzed many times is that all of the 1,016 words, except for 37 words, were written directly by Devon Energy.

PRUITT:
Senator, that was a step that was taking as attorney general, representing the interest of our state. Over 25 percent of our...

MERKLEY:
Yes. So I didn't ask that question. I was just asking if you copied the letter, virtually word for word. You've acknowledged that yes, it's in the -- it's in the record. People can count it. It's correct. All right.

So a public office is about serving the public. There is a public concern over the impact of methane on global warming. There is scientific research showing that it's far more devastating than anticipated, and far more is leaking than -- but you used your office as a direct extension of an oil company, rather than a direct extension of the interest of the public health of the people of Oklahoma.

Do you acknowledge that you presented a private oil company's position rather than a position developed by the people of Oklahoma?

PRUITT:
Senator, I -- with respect, I disagree. The efforts that I took as attorney general were representing the interests of the State of Oklahoma.

MERKLEY:
Earlier you said you -- you -- you...

PRUITT:
And there was a concern about the...

MERKLEY:
No. No, excuse me. I'm -- I'm asking the questions. You said earlier, you listen to everyone. In drafting this letter, you took an oil company's position, and then, without consulting people who had diverse views about the impact, you sent it off. How can you present that as representing the people of Oklahoma when you simply only consulted an oil company, to push its own point of view for its private profit?

PRUITT:
Senator, there's an obligation the EPA has, to follow processes as established by this body. The cost-benefit analysis, under Section 112, is something that they have to engage in. There was a concern about the over-estimated percentages that the EPA put in the record.

It was a record-based challenge. That was the expression of the letter to the EPA, and it was representing the interest of an industry in the State of Oklahoma, not a company.

MERKLEY:
Thank you. So...

PRUITT:
An industry.

MERKLEY:
So my question was, what other groups, environmental groups, or other groups, did you consult, so you had that full perspective before representing simply a for-profit oil company, using your official office and your official letterhead?

PRUITT:
There -- I -- I consulted with other environmental officials in Oklahoma that regulate that industry, and learned from them, with respect to the concerns about the estimates that were provided by the EPA.

MERKLEY:
Could you provide this committee with information showing who you consulted, and representing this letter, specifically, for Devon Energy? Because the information that's in the public realm only shows that they simply sent you a letter, asked you to send it, and you sent it, without questions.

PRUITT:
Yeah, we have seven or so individuals in our office that are involved in these kinds of issues, and we will collect the information they have and provide it to this body, pursuant to the chairman's direction.

MERKLEY:
Your staff expanded substantially while you were in charge, to 251 staff members. Why do you need an outside oil company to draft a letter when you have 250 people working for you?

PRUITT:
Senator, as I've indicated, that was an effort that was protecting the state's interest in making sure that we made the voices of all Oklahomans heard on a very important industry to our state...

MERKLEY:
You said that...

PRUITT:
... concerning record...

MERKLEY:
... all heard, but you only sent it on behalf of a single voice, the oil company. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
I still have some time remaining from my questioning. Are there anything that you'd like to add, that you haven't felt you've had a chance, in terms of answering fully, some of the areas of the questioning?

PRUITT:
I think, Senator, that the clarification, that the -- the letter that was sent to the EPA was not sent on behalf of any one company. This was not particular to Devon Energy, not particular to Chesapeake, not particular to other companies in our state. It was particular to an industry.

The State of Oklahoma has an oil and gas industry that is vibrant to our state, as you might imagine, just like many of you have industry in your state. There was concern expressed by that industry, many folks in that industry, about the over-estimating that occurred with that methane rule.

That was the communication to the EPA. It was the position of the state, not the position of any one company.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Senator Moran.

MORAN:
Chairman, thank you very much.

General Pruitt, welcome to the committee. I thank you for your public service. I'm going to see if I can get through three areas in the five minutes that I have.

First of all, WOTUS, waters of the United States, despite there being an injunction against the enforcement of the WOTUS rule, I'm told that EPA Region 7, the region in which Kansas is part, those regional inspectors have increased their inspection of smaller animal feeding operations.

Unlike many states, Kansas has a well-established state permit system for small facilities, as well as the delegated authority under the Clean Water Act. Rather than coordinate, the EPA -- rather than coordinating

with the state agency, the EPA has engaged in its own inspections and its own enforcement on these small facilities, often conflicting with state permitting in the enforcement process.

In these actions, the EPA has claimed jurisdiction over features like grass waterways, culverts under county roads, unconnected to the feeding operation, and not situated in or near any body of water.

General Pruitt, what would your direction be to the EPA staff, to Region 7 and others, in regard to their actions enforcing WOTUS while an injunction is in place?

PRUITT:
Well Senator, as you indicated -- and I do want to acknowledge, the same concerns have been expressed by those individuals in Oklahoma and different groups, with respect to the -- the WOTUS definition that has been offered by the EPA, that is subject to a 31-state challenge, that was consolidated there before the Sixth Circuit. And as you indicated, there has been a stay of enforcement against that particular rule.

The Supreme Court actually, last Friday, took up a matter of jurisdiction on that -- on that case, so that adds some complexity to this. But I think the role of the EPA, prospectively, is to -- to seek to provide clarity on -- on what the true definition, what the best definition is, with respect to waters of the United States.

As you know, there is much flexibility and discretion there, given to the EPA, in a series of cases that lead up to the Rapanos decision, that haven't provided a tremendous amount of clarity. The best thing the EPA can do, going forward, is to reestablish that clarity so that states and individuals know what's expected of them in compliance.

MORAN:
General, thank you. I don't think I need to -- to remind you, in particular, about the role that states play in clean water.

But I -- but I would take a moment to highlight something that is often, I think, forgotten in the regulatory world of water, water quality, is the Department of Agriculture, the natural resource conservation service in which landowners are assisted, through the Department of Agriculture,

in improving water quality and water quantity, in a very partnership-oriented, local effort, that is significantly different than the tremendous reach from the EPA in Washington, D.C., as compared to the local efforts by landowners, themselves, to work with USDA to solve problems.

Let me move to my second question. It revolves the Flint Hills. That's a native grassland in our state. The owners of those grasslands -- these are thousands of acres of grass, they burn the prairie in the early spring, for purposes of regeneration of that grass.

It is learned from the Indians. Lightning used to be the method by which that grassland burned, less so now, with the settlement that have occurred of our country. And as a result of that annual burning, that is ecologically desirable, there is times in which a city, even one of our own, Wichita, for example, is no longer in it -- no longer in -- it's been a non-attainment under the Clean Air Act.

And I raise this issue to you, in asking that you work -- if you are confirmed, you work to -- with the State of Kansas, in our local efforts to manage the burning of the national grasslands, in a way that is advantageous to wildlife habitat, at the same time, is done in a timely fashion at appropriate times, in appropriate amounts that preserves the air quality, but again, not a heavy-handed approach, that one-size solution or a ban fits the circumstance.

PRUITT:
If confirmed, Senator, I look forward to working with you on that issue.

MORAN:
I thank you for that. And finally, I want to highlight a small town in Kansas named Pretty Prairie, a typical name, or a perfect name for a town in our state. Pretty Prairie, Kansas has a population of about 700 people.

For several decades, because of the need to -- because of high nitrates in the water, the city's water levels -- I didn't say that very well. Because of high levels of nitrate in the city water system, the city has provided free bottled water to its citizens.

And my question to you is, now the EPA is disallowing that practice and requiring the city to spend approximately $2.4 million, and raise the rates of our residents of that community by $80 a month, while the community seemingly is satisfied with the solution of the city providing an alternative to the expense of a new water treatment plant.

I ask this question as, again, as an example of where a rigid decision, as compared to a community-based decision, seems to prevail at the EPA, and would give you an opportunity to confirm to me what I hope you would say is that you will work with communities.

You, as an Oklahoman, and me as a Kansan, and many of the members of this committee, represent lots of communities in which the population is insufficient to meet -- to be able to pay for the cost of water or sewer treatment. We need financial resources to accomplish that, but we also need common-sense solutions to the problem.

PRUITT:
Senator, I look forward to working with on that issue as well as the other. There was a saying in the environmental space, national standards, neighborhood solutions. And I think it's important for the EPA administrator, those in Washington, to learn, as I indicated -- as I said in my opening statement, to listen and learn from those, from you, with respect to the needs of your community and your state, and collaborate with you and local officials to achieve good outcomes.

MORAN:
I look forward to educating you on behalf of Kansas.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Moran.

Senator Booker.

BOOKER:
Good morning, Mr. Pruitt.

PRUITT:

Good morning, Senator Booker.

BOOKER:
I have a letter that I read, that you sent to the committee last year, and you said that the Oklahoma attorney general, you said, "I am responsible for protecting the welfare of Oklahoma citizens." I assume that's still correct, and you believe that?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

BOOKER:
And during the past six years, in pursuit of that, if you look at the record of the lawsuits you filed against the EPA, you've had -- you joined or filed 14 lawsuits against the EPA, challenging clean air and clean water rules, yes?

PRUITT:
We've been involved in multiple pieces of litigation, Senator.

BOOKER:
Yeah, but I'm looking at, specifically, 14, and Mr. Chairman, I'd like to put those 14 lawsuits into the record, where you specifically challenged the EPA on air quality. And let me just go through some of those.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

BOOKER:
Thank you, sir.

To refresh your recollection, you filed two lawsuits challenging the EPA Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. You filed a lawsuit challenging the EPA's 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone. You filed four lawsuits challenging the EPA's Clean Power Plan.

You have sued to challenge the EPA's 111(b) standards for carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants. And you also sued to challenge the EPA's federal implementation plan for Oklahoma under the Regional Hayes rule. You're familiar with those, I imagine?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

BOOKER:
And you filed a lawsuit challenging the EPA Cross-State Air Pollution rule, something, in New Jersey, we're very concerned with. And are you aware that that rule, which you lost, in that suit, scientists estimate that that, alone, prevents 400,000 asthma attacks, nationally, each year. Are you aware of those explanations?

PRUITT:
Yes, Your Honor. Or yes, Senator. May I offer a...

BOOKER:
I appreciate your promoting me to judge.

(LAUGHTER)

BOOKER:
Let me continue, Mr. Pruitt. I don't have that much time.

PRUITT:
OK.

BOOKER:
So each of these lawsuits that I just went through, and that we analyzed, all of them challenge attempts by the EPA to reduce air pollution. In all of them, except one, you filed those lawsuits joining with polluting companies that were also suing the EPA.

And so, in addition to filing those lawsuits, with some of the polluting companies, or at least one that have now been specifically mentioned by two of my -- two of my colleagues, you used substantial portions of the letters from those companies, put them on your official attorney general letterhead.

And what was sort of surprising to me is that, when you've been asked about this in the public, you basically represented that that's actually called representative government in my view of the world. Your testimony here says that you were representing industry. You were representing the polluters.

And so with all of these lawsuits you filed, and with all of these letters, like this one, written to the EPA on behalf of the industries that are causing the pollution, it seems clear to me that obviously, the fact pattern, on representing polluters, is clear, that you worked very hard on behalf of these industries, that have their profits externalize -- negative externalities, are there pollution.

And so, I just have a question for you, specifically about the children of Oklahoma. Do you know how many kids in Oklahoma, roughly, have asthma?

PRUITT:
I do not, Senator.

BOOKER:
Well, according to data published by the nonpartisan -- very nonpartisan group, the American Lung Association, more than 111,000 children in Oklahoma, which is more than 10 percent, more than 1 in 10 of all the kids in Oklahoma, have asthma. That's one of the highest asthma rates in the entire United States of America.

Now, this is a crisis, similar data, for where I was mayor, and I can tell you firsthand the devastating impacts that kids with -- that asthma has on children and families, affecting their economic wellbeing. Parents who have to watch their children struggle to breathe. People that have to miss work, rushing their kids to the hospital.

One in ten kids having a disease, missing school, is a significant problem. And so you have been writing letters on behalf of polluting industries. I want to ask you, how many letters did you write to the EPA about this health crisis?

If this is representative government, did you represent those children? I want to know what actions you've taken, in the past six years, in your capacity of protector of the welfare of Oklahoma citizens, to protect that welfare of those 111 children -- over 111,000 children.

Did you ever let any of them write letters on your letterhead, to the EPA, and did you even file one lawsuit, one lawsuit, on behalf of those kids, to reduce the air pollution in your state and help them to have a healthy life?

PRUITT:
Senator, I've actually provided a list of cases to the Chairman with respect to enforcement steps we've taken in multiple pieces of environmental litigation. But let me say to you, with respect to cross-state air pollution, and some of the cases you referred to, the state has to have an interest before it can bring those cases, as you know.

You can't just bring a lawsuit if you don't have standing, if there's not been some injury to the State of Oklahoma. And each of those cases, before...

BOOKER:
My time's expired, but if I could just say, injury, clearly asthma is triggered and caused by air pollutants. Clearly there is an air pollution problem. And the fact that you have not brought suits, at any of the level to which you've represented the industries that are causing the pollution, is really problematic when you're going to sit in a position that is nationally supposed to be affecting this reality. And asthma, in our country, is the number one reason why children in America, health reason why children in America miss school.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

BARRASSO:

Thank you very much. I'd submit for the record, first, an article from the Tulsa World, from Scott Thompson. The headline is, "EPA Will Be in Good Hands with Scott Pruitt." Scott Thompson is the executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

It talks about the excellent work done, and ends with the quote, "EPA will be in good hands with Scott Pruitt." The -- I would point out that between 2004 and 2008, and we'll submit this for the record, the most recent employers of the Obama administration's senior EPA officials sued the EPA, with 12 lawsuits at least, in the time that, when George W. Bush was in his second term, including Lisa Jackson, Assistant Administrator Cynthia Giles, Gina McCarthy, and Stephen Owens. They were petitioners and plaintiffs, filing suits against the EPA.

And finally, I'll submit a -- an editorial, where -- to point out that -- this is from the -- back to the Tulsa World, "Over the past six years, Pruitt's legal team has consistently shown deference to the legal expertise and professionals at DEQ," the Department of Environmental Quality. This was written by the executive director.

"More importantly," he said, "I cannot recall an instance where they did not allow us to pursue legal action when deemed necessary." And then finally, from Mike Turpen, who is the former chairman of the Oklahoma Democratic Party, he said, "The job at the EPA is the essential mission of guaranteeing clean air and clean water. Pruitt has never compromised those critical components of a healthy population with any actions he has taken."

Senator Rounds.

ROUNDS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Welcome, Attorney General Pruitt.

PRUITT:
Thanks, Senator Rounds.

ROUNDS:

I noticed that -- that you didn't have the opportunity, in the time allotted for Senator Booker's question. Would you care to finish your response, with regard to the -- the role that the states have, and their ability to either participate in a suit, and whether or not they have standing? Would you like to finish your thoughts on that?

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

And Senator, as I indicated in our office, in your office, when we spent time together, the enforcement role in the State of Oklahoma is different than other states, with respect to the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. We have multiple agencies -- the Department of Agriculture, that have front- line enforcement authority with respect to our environmental laws.

The role that we play, in my office, largely is a general counsel role. We provide guidance and direction to those agencies. There are many cases we have initiated in conjunction with them, but -- but mainly, those agencies enforce actions at their level. Many of those agencies have dozens of attorneys on their staff, and a general counsel in their own right, bringing those enforcement actions.

You mentioned several of the cases, from MATS to clean -- cross- state air pollution and the rest. I believe the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule is a very important statute that EPA should enforce. I believe that if there's downwind states that are contributing to non- attainment in up -- or I'm sorry, upwind states that are contributing to non-attainment in downwind states, that there should be responsibility for those states.

We have that issue with Texas at times. And so, the lawsuit was not questioning the authority of the EPA to regulate under the Cross- State Air Pollution rule, it was more that they were trying to assess damages against certain states that were in excess of their allocated share.

So each of those cases, I would ask you to remember, I'm an advocate in behalf of the State of Oklahoma. There's a state's interest, as Senator Rounds indicated, that has to be in play. To say that any of those cases is about any one -- any one company, is just simply not right.

There's no parens patriae standing that I have as attorney general, to bring a case on behalf of a private citizen or a company. There has to be a standing, an injury to the state's interest, to bring those cases. And so I would ask you to consider that as we go through those cases you mentioned earlier.

Thank you, Senator Rounds.

ROUNDS:
Thank you. Thank -- thank you. And thank you, sir, for your response, your complete response. Also, as the chairman of the subcommittee on oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency, I've had the opportunity to look at their -- their basis for the way that they make their decisions known, and the logic the use in getting to those decisions.

We had a chance to talk about it in my office the other day, and one of the items that I brought up was the fact that we actually had received comments from the Small Business Administration Office, of advocacy, a copy of which I've gotten, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to have put into the record. Thank you.

And with this, this was a letter that was sent to the EPA in October of 2014, requesting that the EPA withdraw the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule, the WOTUS rule, and reevaluate the impacts the rule would have on American small business. Now this is a federal agency requesting the EPA take a second look at a proposed rule.

The EPA refused this request and issued the final rule that we have today. What are your thoughts on this? And would you, if you are approved, and -- and become the next administrator of EPA, would you take a second look at whether or not they had a valid reason for having the Waters of the U.S. rule considered again?

PRUITT:
I think, Senator, the response of the Sixth Circuit, and where we are presently, with the litigation, there are definitely need -- there's definitely a need to address that on a prospective basis. Historically, as you know, under the Clean Water Act, and even before the Clean Water was passed, the waters of the United States, equaled Navigable Waters, navigable-in-fact waters.

We know, from a couple of cases, that led up to the most recent case, Rapanos, that the Clean Water Act is simply more than navigable- in-fact, but what that more is has to be determined and assessed.

And so, as I indicated earlier, to another Senator's question, the most important thing is to provide certainty, to make sure that the Clean Water Act helps those at the state level know where the boundaries are, of where they have jurisdiction and where they don't, so that we can have regulations that are fair and equitable, and uncertainty is not created.

BOUNDS:
In the lawsuits that you have brought against the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the State of Oklahoma, would it be fair to say that a number of those are based upon the Environmental Protection Agency failing to follow its own rules, and the promulgation of those rules?

PRUITT:
Yes. Yes, Senator. I think, whether it's the MATS case, or the Clean Power Plan case, or the WOTUS case, or a multitude of cases, the courts have agreed that the EPA has exceeded its authority, that the EPA has not acted within the framework that Congress has established, in performing the role that it's supposed to perform.

That's the reason I mentioned, in my opening statement, that process matters, rule of law matters. Federalism matters. And I'm -- those issues matter because Congress has said so. It is Congress who gives authority to the EPA. The EPA is an administrative agency. It's not a legislative body.

And so it's important for that agency to act within framework, within the substantive authority that Congress has provided it, in doing its job. And in -- in leading the EPA, if confirmed, I think, if you -- if I do that effectively, it will provide confidence, certainty to those that are regulated, to know what's expected of them, and improve our air, improve our water because of that.

ROUNDS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Rounds.

Senator Markey.

MARKEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This morning, NOAA, NASA has declared 2016 the hottest year in the 137-year-old record that has been kept. Donald Trump has called global warming a hoax caused by the Chinese. Do you agree that global warming is a hoax?

PRUITT:
I do not, Senator.

MARKEY:
So Donald Trump is wrong?

PRUITT:
I do not believe that climate change is a hoax.

MARKEY:
OK. That's important for the president to hear. Mr. Pruitt, you've made a career working on behalf of the fossil fuel industry to eviscerate regulations designed to protect public health and the environment. You have sued the EPA 19 times to stop clean air and water protections.

Eight of those cases are still ongoing, including your litigation that challenges critical rules that reduce levels of hazardous smog, mercury and carbon pollution. As EPA administrator, you would be in a position to serve as plaintiff, defendant, judge and jury on these ongoing eight lawsuits, and that would be wrong.

In your ethics agreement, you have said that you would not participate in any matter that is ongoing litigation within one year. But Mr. Pruitt, isn't it correct that these lawsuits may very well continue for much longer than one year?

PRUITT:
Well Senator, I have the letter from the ethics counsel at the EPA, and the one-year time period is intended to address covered entities, entities that I serve in -- in chairmanship, or a officer capacity, the Southern Theological Seminary, the Windows Ministry. Those entities are covered entities.

So if there is a matter that arises before the EPA within a one- year period, a particular matter, a specific case that involves those entities, then a recusal would be in order. But that's really the -- the focus of the one-year timeline.

MARKEY:
But will you agree to recuse yourself from those lawsuits which you brought, as the attorney general of Oklahoma, against the EPA, not just for one year, but for the entirety of the time that you are the administrator of the EPA. Will you commit to doing that?

PRUITT:
Senator, I -- for clarity, I -- I -- I think that it's important to note that the one-year time period, again, is for those covered entities that were highlighted in the EPA letter. With respect to pending litigation -- with respect to pending litigation, the EPA ethics counsel has indicated, with respect to particular matters and specific parties, there will be an opportunity to get counsel from the EPA at that point, to determine what steps could be taken to avoid appearances of impropriety.

MARKEY:
So you will not -- are you saying that you will not recuse yourself from the actual matters which you are suing the EPA on right now, as attorney general of Oklahoma, for the time that you are the head of the EPA?

PRUITT:
I'm not saying that. I'm not -- I'm not saying that at all, Senator.

MARKEY:

You are saying that. Will you recuse yourself?

PRUITT:
I'm saying that -- that the EPA ethics counsel has indicated those cases will require a review by the EPA ethics counsel, and -- and if it involves a particular matter with a specific party, then recusal would potentially be in order. And I would follow the guidance and counsel of the EPA ethics...

MARKEY:
I just think this is a -- this is a clear line for the American public, given your record from Oklahoma of suing the EPA on all of these matters, that if you don't agree to recuse yourself, then again, you become plaintiff, defendant, judge and jury on the cases that you're bringing, that -- right now, as attorney general of Oklahoma, against the EPA.

And that -- the EPA is for all of the people of the United States, not just the fossil fuel industry of Oklahoma. So you're not committing -- and I think that's a big mistake, Mr. Pruitt, to recuse yourself from those cases. It is critical.

And moreover, you also are in a position to initiate regulations that could overturn smog protections, carbon pollution protections that are right now on the books, that you are suing, as attorney general of Oklahoma, to overturn. Would you commit to not regulating, promulgating new regulations in any of the areas where you, right now, are suing the EPA? Would you make a commitment that you would recuse yourself from doing that?

PRUITT:
Let me -- let me be clear, Senator, because we talked about this in your office. And I very much enjoyed the conversation we had there, in addition to this area that we talked about. I have every willingness and desire to -- to -- to recuse, as directed by EPA ethics counsel.

And if -- and if directed to do so, I will, in fact, do so, to recuse in those cases. There is a different -- difference, as you know, between pending litigation in a particular matter, with specific parties, and prospective rulemaking. Rulemaking goes through a process. Rulemaking...

MARKEY:
Look at -- you're the -- what the American people are expecting here, is that EPA doesn't turn into every polluter's ally. The only way to ensure that is for you to recuse yourself from the cases that you have brought, because most of them are to overturn the clean air, clean water, smog regulations.

So to create an appearance of independence, it's critical that you recuse yourself.

PRUITT:
And I will -- I will recuse...

MARKEY:
Otherwise -- otherwise, honestly, people are going to think that it's not just the fox guarding the henhouse, it's the fox destroying the henhouse.

PRUITT:
And that...

MARKEY:
Because you -- you haven't distanced yourself from the actual litigation that you have initiated on most of the key issues that you are now going to have responsibility for protecting, in terms of the public health of the entire country.

PRUITT:
And Senator, I can say to you, unequivocally, I will recuse as directed by EPA ethics counsel.

MARKEY:
And I'm saying to you, is that you should just start out saying, I'm going to recuse myself from anything that relates to any litigation that I have initiated, as the attorney general of Oklahoma, that questions the clean air, clean water, climate change, or smog, or mercury protections which are right now on the books, that the EPA is honored to -- to protect.

And if you don't do that, then we're going to have a fundamental conflict of interest that is presented by your presence as the administrator of the EPA. It just gets down to being a matter as simple as that.

BARRASSO:
The senator's time has expired. Thank you, Senator Markey.

For clarification, will you fully follow the advice of the EPA ethics counsel?

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Just for additional clarification, regarding conflicts of interest, I note the letter to this committee, on January 4th, and I am submitting to the record, "We" -- this is the Office of Government Ethics, "believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest."

And then there was a letter yesterday from Water Shaub, director, Office of Government Ethics, responding to a letter from Senator Carper and other EPW Democrats, regarding Attorney General Pruitt and potential conflicts of interest, and they say, "If the Office of Government Ethics has transmitted a certified financial disclosure report, and an ethics agreement to the Senate" -- which they have, "it means the Office of Government Ethics is satisfied that all financial conflicts of interest have been identified and resolved."

Senator Ernst.

ERNST:
Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thank you, Attorney General Pruitt, for appearing in front of us today. I enjoyed our -- our conversation, both one-on-one, and then in a group setting, as well. And I would like to go back and revisit our discussion on the RFS.

As you know, Iowa is home to 43 ethanol refineries. We are the largest producer of ethanol west or east of the Missouri River. President-elect Trump reiterated his support for biofuels while he was campaigning across Iowa and all across the Midwest. And those areas of the country overwhelmingly supported his candidacy, and led to his victory.

And thank you for stating, once again, that you would honor his commitment to biofuels by carrying out the RFS as intended by Congress. Policy certainty is key for economic growth, and this something that we discussed in my office.

Unfortunately, as a result of uncertainty surrounding the EPA's renewable fuel volume targets in 2014, 2015 and 2016, second-generation biofuel investment decreased, and proposed projects moved overseas. Fortunately, the EPA has recently changed its course and released updated volume targets for the RFS, that meet the levels proscribed by Congress.

If confirmed as administrator, what will you do to continue to provide certainty, so that investment can continue to happen, right here at home in the United States?

PRUITT:
You know, Senator, as you indicated in our meeting, the importance of the infrastructure investment that has occurred, and reliance upon, the law was passed in 2005 and updated in 2007. And as I indicated earlier to Senator Fischer's question, the latitude discretion that has been given to the EPA administrator, with respect to waiving those statutory targets, should be judiciously used.

It shouldn't be automatic. It should be something that the EPA administrator seeks to comply with and adhere to, because of the will of this body. And so I think those waivers, obviously, are in order, but with respect to market conditions, we have less consumption today, fuel efficient vehicles, market conditions have changed since 2005.

But despite that, the EPA administrator should not use that to undermine or to somehow put into question, the commitments made by this body in the Renewable Fuel Standards statute.

ERNST:

Thank you for your commitment to the RFS and the intention of Congress. I also want to touch on an issue you mentioned in your testimony, which is the level of fear and distrust many folks have of the EPA. When I'm home in Iowa, I host town halls all across the state, and just want to hear what's going on in their communities.

And what I hear, without fail, at these town halls, is that folks are frustrated with the EPA and the "gotcha" mentality that has stemmed from the agency. My constituents tell me the EPA is out to get them, rather than work with them, and there is a huge lack of trust between many of my constituents and the EPA.

And if we take a look specifically at the WOTUS rule, Iowans truly feel that the EPA ignored their comments and concerns, threw them under the rug, and then just moved forward. We know now that the EPA relied on gimmicky mass e-mails and social media events to prop up their message, and then they used those tactics to insinuate that anyone who had reasonable concerns about the WOTUS rule are somehow in favor of dirty water, which is absolutely ridiculous.

And this type of culture that was created under the Obama administration has no place, has no place here. So Mr. Pruitt, what do you plan to do in your first days as the administrator to improve the relationships EPA has with the hard-working folks across the country?

PRUITT:
Well Senator, as I indicated in my opening statement, this paradigm that we live within today, if you're pro-energy, you're anti-environment, if you're pro-environment, you're anti-energy, is something that I think is just a false narrative. We -- we can do better than that.

In fact, this country has shown for decades that we can grow our economy, and be a good steward of our air, land and water. Cooperative federalism is at the heart of many of the environmental statutes that have been passed by this body. And the reason for that is, it's the states, many times, that have the resources, the expertise, and understanding what the unique challenges are for the environment, in improving our water and our air.

It's not that they don't care about it. Senator Whitehouse indicated a devolution of authority to the states would create a problem. That's not what I'm advocating. And I think we hear in the marketplace, we need a partnership, a true partnership, between the EPA, in performing its role, along with the states, in performing theirs.

And if we have that partnership, as opposed to punishment, as opposed to uncertainty, and duress that we currently see in the marketplace, I think we'll have better air, better water quality as a result.

ERNST:
Thank you. I look forward to that partnership and transparency.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Ernst.

Senator Duckworth.

DUCKWORTH:
Thank you.

Mr. Pruitt, I'm -- I want to clarify your response to Senator Ernst on this whole congressional intent, when it comes to the RFS. What I want to know, and what the people of Illinois -- we are also a great producer of ethanol. And what we need to know is where exactly you stand on the RFS.

Are you the attorney general who, only three years ago, sided with big oil to slam the RFS? You -- and I quote, said that "RFS was unworkable," and also that it was a "flawed program."

So I'm a little confused on what you're saying today, because are you that -- are you that Mr. Pruitt, or are you the Scott Pruitt today, who is saying all the right things in this confirmation hearing and in these meetings to try to reassure pro-RFS states by repeating nice-sounding, but ultimately vague and hollow mantra, that if confirmed, you would enforce the RFS law as written by Congress.

As you and I are quite well aware of, such a statement essentially dodges the critical issue for biofuels producers and workers, because under the law, the EPA has considerable discretion to adjust the renewable volume obligation in a manner that you would argue is contrary to congressional intent, yet may be compliant with the explicit letter of the statute.

So as EPA administrator, you could still technically be in compliant with Congress, with the law, but actually be working against it. And your answers today have not clarified that. So my question to you, Mr. Pruitt, is this.

Which specific actions has EPA taken since 2007, while administering the RFS, that you, in your view, are not consistent with congressional intent? Can you name any?

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator. The administrator and the EPA routinely misses the statutory targets, in publishing those each year, creating great uncertainty in the marketplace. In fact, some -- in some years, they've missed the -- they've missed the timeline, as far as submitting those targets, by over a year, in some cases, over two years.

DUCKWORTH:
OK. So let me -- let me ask you this, then. Yes or no, do you believe that Congress intended for the RFS to increase the amount of renewable fuel blended in our nation's liquid transportation fuel supply? Yes or no.

PRUITT:
Without question. Yes.

DUCKWORTH:
Without question?

PRUITT:
Yes.

DUCKWORTH:
All right. My second question then, is yes or no, do you believe Congress intended for the RFS to be a stable policy that drives private investment in the renewable energy industry?

PRUITT:
Yes.

DUCKWORTH:
And finally, if confirmed, will you commit to opposing any and all proposals to move the point of obligation under the RFS program from refiners to blenders?

PRUITT:
Senator, as you know, the EPA is actually involved in a comment period on that very issue. And to prejudge the outcome of that, I think, would be -- I would not be able to do -- to do that. There are many aspects of the program, from the trading program, the monitoring of fraud in the system, that need to be betterly -- better administrated by the EPA.

These have been administration issues. The EPA has created uncertainty. We talked about it minutes ago -- a minute ago, with the senator, about the amount of investment that's gone into the infrastructure because of the 2005 law.

Those individuals need to have certainty and confidence that the RFS is going -- is going to be enforced and administered pursuant to the desires of Congress. That...

DUCKWORTH:
Right. But if you were to do that, then you would actually have to answer -- you would have to answer yes, because to move the RFS program from refiners to blenders is actually one of those ways that you can actually undermine the RFS standards as intended by Congress, which you yourself just now said was intended to increase the amount of biofuels blended into the fuel supply of the United States.

This is my problem. You -- on the one hand, your entire track record shows you to be someone who opposes the RFS, and yet here, in front of Congress, and in meetings with senators, you are giving these vague answers that sound right when it comes to the RFS, but really opens all sorts of back doors for you to oppose the Renewable Fuel Standard.

And that is very troublesome, because all across the Midwest -- you know, for those of us who have fought to strengthen national security by lessening our country's dangerous dependence on foreign oil, I'm really incredibly concerned about the future of the RFS and American-produced biofuels under a Scott Pruitt-led EPA.

And I'm also incredibly concerned about what you're going to do in terms of protecting the environment. In your answer to one of my colleagues about what the role of the EPA is, what is the job of the EPA, one of the first questions you got, you spent five minutes talking before you actually said, protect the environment.

You talked all about reducing EPA's influence over states for a good five minutes before you actually got the environment. And then for my farmers, my corn and soybean producers for my biofuel industry, the RFS is critical in order to continue that.

And I would rather burn American made, American corn -- grown corn and soybean in my gas tank, than I would oil from the Middle East. I've already been to a war fought over oil in the Middle East, and I don't intend to allow us to continue to do that, which is why the RFS is so critical, not just for the jobs in Illinois, not just to support Illinois agriculture, but for our national security, when it comes to where we're going to get our energy supply.

I'm out of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Duckworth.

PRUITT:
If I may? Senator, let -- let me say to you, the role of the administrator of the EPA is to enforce and administer the RFS program to carry out the objectives of that statute. Those targets that have been put in that statute by this body need to be respected.

The discretion authority, the waiver authority of the administrator needs to be judiciously used to address those concerns that we've talked about. And so I don't want you to have any concern about the -- the intent, objective or will, if confirmed, of carrying out the RFS mandate or the statute in its whole.

DUCKWORTH:
That very answer concerns me, because you've not actually said that you're going to stick with it.

BARRASSO:
I'd like to submit for the record, two -- one, a letter from the American Farm Bureau Federation, which strongly supports the nomination of Scott Pruitt as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and urges a vote in favor of his confirmation.

The second is a letter from the Democrat attorney general of the State of Arkansas, former Democrat Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, who has this to say about Attorney General Scott Pruitt's work on the stem phosphorous levels in the Illinois River watershed.

He said, "Recent press accounts regarding these efforts unfairly mischaracterize the work that was done by General Pruitt and his team. He was a staunch defender of sound science and good policy, as appropriate tools to protect the environment of his state. I saw firsthand how General Pruitt was able to bridge political divides, and manage multiple agency agendas, to reach an outcome that was heralded by most credible observers as both positive and historical."

Senator Boozman.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, Attorney General Pruitt, for your willingness to serve, and your family. I think everybody at the dais here realizes that these really are family affairs that truly affect everyone.

In recent years, the EPA has made it increasingly difficult for Arkansas to manage its delegated national pollutant discharge elimination system. The -- too often, the permits, rulemakings, or other actions sent to EPA for review, are returned with demands far more restrictive, additional expensive data collections required, and other costly onerous requirements.

New leadership at EPA has an opportunity to correct this coercive federalism, and instead, restore cooperative federalism, as intended. The states have the expertise and local knowledge necessary to administer environmental programs.

Mr. Pruitt, EPA has the opportunity to play a significant role in supporting a move back to cooperative federalism. Can you please explain how you plan to change the EPA-state dynamic? My experience with EPA -- and being on Transportation in the House, being ranking member on Water there, ranking member in the Senate is, the EPA is -- their attitude is, we're with you, unless you come out with a finding that is contrary, and then we're going to do it our way. So can you address that?

PRUITT:
I think, two things, Senator. One, as we indicated earlier, rule of law and making sure that the authority granted to the states, under state implementation plans, delegation under certain clean water provisions, that that's respected.

But also, I think the EPA needs to provide more assistance to the states, in working in partnership, and be proactive. Those regional administrators that we have across the country need to be seen as partners, and not adversaries.

And so I think, restoring that confidence, restoring that relationship, and seeking to do so, is very, very important in carrying out this partnership that we know that exists on the various environmental statutes.

BOOZMAN:
Very good. For the past eight years, EPA has acted as a political arm of the Obama administration time, and time again. We've seen rules developed not based on sound science, but on political ideology.

When rules have been released, states and private sector, and even Congress, have had trouble getting EPA to show the science that helped develop these rules. Under your leadership, can we expect EPA to be more transparent?

In other words, how the rules are being developed, the science behind them. And you've continually alluded to this, and I think it's so important, as administrator of the EPA, can we count on you to base all of your decisions on the rule of law, not on the administrator's or even your own political ideology?

PRUITT:
Absolutely, Senator. In response to the latter part of your question, that public participation is important. There's a reason why, in rulemaking, that you take comment. There's a reason, as I indicated earlier to Senator Ernst, that you involve those that are impacted by rulemaking, because you want to understand the impact, both economically and otherwise, and the benefit of the environment, as well as making sure that you craft rules and regulations that take all those things into consideration.

So hearing the voices of all Americans in that rulemaking process, responding to those comments in the record before rules are finalized, transparency, objectivity, a commitment to process, is very important, in my view, of restoring the confidence of the American people in the rulemaking processes that occur here in Washington, D.C.

BOOZMAN:
So again, releasing the -- the scientific data behind that would be something that you'd very much support?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

BOOZMAN:
Very much. The problem that the EPA, EPW committee has faced with the current administration is a lack of communication. Time and time again, EPA either did not respond to questions from committee

members, or at the very least, took months to respond. Under your leadership, can we expect the EPA to get committee members answers in -- in a timely fashion?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. As indicated in my opening statement, listening is an important role of leadership, and listening to the voices of the folks here in Congress. As I went through and met with many of you, through this process, there were issues particular to your state, that you made me aware of.

And I, if confirmed as EPA administrator, seek to be very active in listening to the needs, with respect to your various states, and respond to this body with respect to questions.

BOOZMAN:
Let me just comment on the -- on the Arkansas-Oklahoma issue. I was the congressman in that district. And so I inherited that in 2001. I'd been working on this for 15 years. And I appreciate you and Attorney General McDaniel doing a very good job of getting things done.

On the other hand, the idea that somehow you were soft -- in fact, I would argue that you -- you know, that the agreement that was reached was way too restrictive, and is probably one of the most restrictive watersheds, as far as phosphorous requirements, of any place in the United States.

PRUITT:
Well, as you know, Senator, in that process, we actually selected a biologist from Baylor University to engage in a scientific study on what the phosphorous levels should be, the numeric quality of the water. And it was determined, at the end of that process, that 0.037 was the right standard, and is now enforceable on both sides of the border, for the first time in history. So it is a very important outcome.

BOOZMAN:
No, I understand. And I commend you on the process. I just -- you know, the implication here is somehow, you know, you were -- you came up with a deal that was -- was too soft. And if anything, I would

argue that it was perhaps a little bit too harsh. So -- but I do appreciate the process. I know that you and our -- our former attorney general were able to do something that had been going on for decades.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

BOOZMAN:
Really appreciate it.

BARRASSO:
Well you've been at it now for about two hours. If you can stay with us till we finish the first round of questioning, we have about five or six additional questions coming. Senator Harris is next, and then we'll break at about 12:30, if that's all right with everybody.

CARPER:
Ask the -- right -- unanimous consent, make a unanimous consent request, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Yes, sir.

CARPER:
I'd like to ask unanimous consent to submit for the record the legal brief against the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule, which Mr. Pruitt supported, and stated in that brief, and I'll just quote, it says, "Human exposure to methyl mercury resulting from coal-fired electrogenerating utilities is exceedingly small," close quote. That's the quote.

I also ask unanimous consent to submit for the record a recent article that quotes, I think, the New York Times. It quotes a 40-year career employee of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, that has him saying these words, "He" -- Mr. Pruitt, "has advocated and stood up for the profits of businesses, be it poultry companies or the energy industry and other polluters, at the expense of people who have to drink the water or breathe the air."

Other -- other statements have been introduced for the record, saying quite a different thing about Mr. Pruitt. I think it's only fair to go to someone who's worked there for 40 years and has quite a different view than the one that he's -- he -- our witness has expressed. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

Senator Harris.

HARRIS:
Thank you, Chairman.

Mr. Pruitt, as an attorney general, I know, as a former attorney general of California, that we, as attorneys general, have several duties, which include representing our clients, state agencies, and also the discretion and power to initiate lawsuits in our independent capacity as attorneys general. Would you agree with that?

PRUITT:
Some states provide more latitude that, than others.

HARRIS:
Does your state?

PRUITT:
Our state has not provided, constitutionally, as much authority as other states, to...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
Have you never -- have you never exercised your independent capacity as attorney general to bring a legal action?

PRUITT:

Senator, I would have to know more specifics about what you're referring to. But in response to your question, it does vary considerably...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
Have you ever exercised your independent capacity as the attorney general of your state, to initiate a legal action?

PRUITT:
Our litigation...

HARRIS:
Yes or no?

PRUITT:
The litigations that we've engaged in, largely have been consultation with agencies that...

HARRIS:
Largely? So you have also exercised your independent capacity as the attorney general of your state. Is that correct, or not?

PRUITT:
I may have, Senator. I don't -- I don't...

HARRIS:
You don't know...

PRUITT:
Yes.

HARRIS:
... if you have or not? You have been attorney general for your state for almost seven years. Is that correct?

PRUITT:
Approaching that, yes. Six years, actually.

HARRIS:
And I've read that you have initiated, and it has been mentioned before, 14 lawsuits in your independent capacity as the attorney general of Oklahoma. And apparently, seven of those cases have been resolved, six of which you have lost.

My question is, I hear that you are a lover of baseball. What would your batting average then be?

PRUITT:
It was generally above 300, which is pretty good for a second baseman.

HARRIS:
Yeah. My calculation is, it's 142. Going -- moving on, would you agree that attorneys, who have the responsibility for doing the work of justice, and particularly as an attorney general, that we make decisions based on propriety and impropriety? We make decisions based on what is not only an actual conflict, but what is an appearance of conflict. Would you agree that's important?

PRUITT:
I believe that's important, Senator.

HARRIS:
OK. And so, on this issue of whether or not you would be recused if you are nominated and actually voted in as the administrator of the EPA, you have said that you will recuse yourself from the cases your office has been involved with if directed to do that. Do you agree that you also have the discretion to recuse yourself from those cases?

PRUITT:
I -- I believe, Senator, the rules of professional conduct, in addition to the review that OGE, ethics counsel and...

HARRIS:
Do you believe that you have the discretion to recuse yourself from the cases that you were involved with as attorney general?

PRUITT:
I think it's actually stronger than that, Senator. I actually have an obligation, in those instances, as directed by ethics counsel. And that's the reason I indicated earlier, that I will...

HARRIS:
Independent of any direction from ethics counsel, do you agree you have the discretion to recuse yourself from those cases?

PRUITT:
I believe that it's important to maintain...

HARRIS:
I'm asking about whether or not you actually have the discretion, the power, to recuse yourself.

PRUITT:
Part of -- part of the...

HARRIS:
Do you disagree or agree with that?

PRUITT:
Part of the discretion -- part of -- there's a discretion to recuse.

HARRIS:
Clearly. You're familiar with...

PRUITT:
I just want to...

HARRIS:
... the clean -- you're familiar with the Clean Air Act, yes?

PRUITT:
I'm sorry, Senator?

HARRIS:
You are familiar with the Clean Air Act?

PRUITT:
I am.

HARRIS:
And as you may know, Section 209, Subdivision B of the Clean Air Act recognizes California's authority to issue air pollution standards for new motor vehicles that go above and beyond federal standards.

The EPA has historically recognized California's authority to issue new motor vehicle pollution standards that go above and beyond federal standards. In your opening statement, you write, "It is not EPA's mission to be against sectors of industry, in general, or against particular states."

Will you commit, then, to upholding that same standard in recognizing California's authority to issue its own new motor vehicle air pollution standards?

PRUITT:
Now Senator, as you indicated, California was actually regulating those standards before the EPA was actually created, which is why the California waiver exists, under statute.

HARRIS:
Do you agree to uphold that same standard that has been held by your previous -- previous...

PRUITT:

I agree to review that as each...

HARRIS:
... administrators?

PRUITT:
... administrator before me has. It's been granted at times, and denied at times.

HARRIS:
Do you agree to uphold it? Reviewing and upholding are two different points.

PRUITT:
Senator, as you know, administrators in the past have not granted the waiver, and in fact, have granted the waiver. That's a review process that will be conducted...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
What is your intention, sir?

PRUITT:
I don't know without going through the process to determine that, Senator. And would -- one -- one would not want to presume the outcome.

HARRIS:
In the 14 cases that have been previously mentioned, in each of those cases, regulated companies were also a party to your suits. Is that correct?

PRUITT:
In some instances, yes.

HARRIS:
In most of them. Can you name a few instances in which you have filed a lawsuit, in your independent capacity as attorney general, against a corporate entity, for violating state or federal pollution laws?

PRUITT:
Senator, I have a list here that's been provided to...

HARRIS:
Can you name them, please?

PRUITT:
Sure. There's a list that -- that has been...

HARRIS:
Can you name one?

PRUITT:
Yes. The -- the first is the Mahard Egg Farm, involving a CATHO (ph) situation, and a cleanup of a large hen operation, that affected water quality. Celco Manufacturing...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
Did you file a lawsuit in that case, sir?

PRUITT:
I -- I did, Senator.

HARRIS:
OK. And what was the outcome of that case?

PRUITT:
We received a good outcome against them.

HARRIS:
And the name of that entity was what?

PRUITT:
Mahard Egg Farm.

HARRIS:
And can you name any other cases where you have actually filed a lawsuit against a corporate entity for violating federal pollution laws?

PRUITT:
In fact, that case was brought in conjunction with the EPA. And I want to address something, Senator. Earlier, when you say independent capacity, those cases that you referred to, the list of cases were as an extension of the DEQ in the State of Oklahoma, an extension of the agencies at the federal -- the state level, that had authority granted to them by this body that we were...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
And I understand -- I understand that role, as a former attorney general, but that is you representing your client. I'm asking about your independent capacity as the attorney general of your state. Let's move on.

On the issue of mercury...

BARRASSO:
I would -- I would -- I would suggest that the senator's time has expired.

HARRIS:
Thank you.

BARRASSO:
In terms of moving on. Thank you.

I would like to introduce, for the record, an independent -- a letter, by J.D. Strong, who is the director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, who, in reference to the submission recently by the ranking member, makes reference to the -- that former employee, who is retired from the State of Oklahoma, and is currently serving as vice chairman of the Oklahoma chapter of the Sierra Club.

So that the references are from now, someone who is no longer a state employee, but the vice chairman of the Oklahoma chapter of the Sierra Club. But this letter from Mr. Strong goes to talk about the efforts by Attorney General Pruitt, who says, "For the past six years, General Pruitt has been instrumental in many of our successes, and has never asked me to compromise regulatory efforts to benefit industry."

He says, "On the contrary, all of our projects and cases that involved his office were given staff support at the highest level, and more often than not, resulted in more stringent environmental protection. He has been a strong ally in defending our ability to continue the great progress that we made in protecting Oklahoma's environment."

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman, may I ask in response, let me just ask for unanimous consent to, for the record -- and this is on behalf of Senator Whitehouse, rebuttal argument -- articles for Mr. Pruitt's claim on litigation against fossil companies.

Topline points from these articles are one, that they are fraud cases, first and foremost. Second, some were brought by his predecessor, Drew Edmondson. The case -- third point, case against BP was filed and left dormant, at least per E&E publication. And also that Mr. Pruitt fought against the participation of state whistleblowers in the litigation. That was a reference to a qui tam action. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

Senator Sullivan.

SULLIVAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And General Pruitt, it's good to see you again. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

SULLIVAN:
And to your family. As you know, it's a team effort, so I want to thank them as well.

I appreciated your opening statement, particularly your -- your written statement. And I want to emphasize, we all want clean air. We all want clean water. My state of Alaska has some of the cleanest air, cleanest water, pristine environment, literally, in the world.

But your emphasis on the ability to do both, to grow an economy, to develop our resources responsibly, and protect the environment, I think, is very, very important, and I appreciate that focus. I believe the EPA needs a serious course correction. As Senator Ernst talked about, there's a lot of anger, even fear of this agency throughout many parts of the country.

And I believe you are the right person to provide that course correction, and do something that is very important, which is regain the trust of the American people, that I think has been lost, in a lot of places in America because of the over-reach, because of the lack of focusing on the law.

So there's been a lot of discussion this morning about cooperative federalism. And can you explain it in a little more detail? Is that your term, or is that a term that -- did you come up with that? Or is that something that was actually directed by Congress?

PRUITT:
Directed by Congress, Senator.

SULLIVAN:

And so, in the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, who was given -- what entity, in our Republican form of govern was -- government, was given the primary responsibility over clean air and clean water in the United States?

PRUITT:
Well as you know, Senator, under the Clean Air Act, there are some -- there's something called state implementation plans, that the EPA and the states review together. But the states have that responsibility...

SULLIVAN:
So is it an...

PRUITT:
... of adopting a plan.

SULLIVAN:
Isn't it correct, actually in the law, it says...

PRUITT:
It is.

SULLIVAN:
... the primary responsibility, under the Clean Air Act and clean water -- and who directed that?

PRUITT:
Congress.

SULLIVAN:
OK. So when you're talking about cooperative federalism, that's not some Scott Pruitt-invented -- you are focusing on the intent of the Congress?

PRUITT:

Probably more so than any statutes that have been adopted by Congress, historically, the environmental statutes that we know, from clean water to clean air, to Safe Drinking Water Act, in many pieces of legislation, Congress has been very explicit, very specific in saying, that cooperative federalism, the role of the states is important, should be respected, and should be emphasized.

SULLIVAN:
So let me -- let me show you a chart here. This is the Waters of the U.S., and the states and entities that sued to stop that rule, 32 Democrats and Republicans, and Independents. Do you think this is an example of cooperative federalism? And if not, if you're confirmed, what are you going to do to get back to what is not a Scott Pruitt idea, it's the direct direction of the Congress of the United States?

PRUITT:
Senator, when you -- when you think about the relationship between the EPA and the states, the states are not mere vessels of federal will. They don't exist simply to carry out federal dictates from Washington, D.C. There are substantive requirements, obligations, authority, jurisdiction granted to the states under environmental statutes.

That needs to be respected. When it's not respected, that is what spawned most of this litigation that has been referenced here today. And why does it spawn it? Because it matters. It matters that the states participate in the way that Congress has directed, and they've been unable to do so for a number of years.

SULLIVAN:
So again, cooperative federalism, you're carrying out the will of Congress when you're focused on that issue?

PRUITT:
That's exactly right. The expertise, the resources, the knowledge, the awareness of how to fix environmental issues at the local level, is something that's important for the entire country to know.

SULLIVAN:

So I am a former attorney general myself, who has sued the EPA. And some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, you know, judge Booker's comments -- I think he tried to equate a little bit, suing the EPA, not caring for Oklahoma's children. Do you care about Oklahoma's children?

PRUITT:
Without question. I've got a couple sitting behind me.

SULLIVAN:
Fourteen lawsuits -- and again, Senator Boozman mentioned this, what has been the primary focus of those lawsuits? It's not that you don't care about the environment, is it?

PRUITT:
Absolutely not. I mean, it's some -- I care very much about the environment. It's to restore the -- the relationship, and ensure the relationship that Congress has directed, the role of the states in improving our environment.

There's an idea in -- in Washington, that the states, those in Oklahoma, or in Alaska, or other parts of the country, don't care about the water we drink or the air we breathe. The farmers and ranchers, those in industry in the State of Oklahoma that I'm -- most of them are very committed to that. When they have not been, we have taken enforcement action against them.

SULLIVAN:
And -- and just one final question. And a lot of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle spend a lot of time -- and I think Senator Sanders is up next, vilifying the oil and gas industry, as somehow bad actors, polluters. According the America Petroleum Institute, 364,000 Oklahomans work in the oil and gas industry or related service sectors.

Are these people bad actors? Are they polluters? Could you describe -- you talk about the good people in your written statement. Who are these people? And are you representing them, when you're bringing these kind of actions? Are they evil people?

PRUITT:
No, Senator. They're -- they want to comply with the law. They want to know what's expected of them. They care about the air they breathe, and the water they drink, and they want to make sure that the EPA is partnering with state agencies and industry to ensure that that outcome occurs.

SULLIVAN:
And aren't these hundreds of thousands of people part of that industry?

PRUITT:
Absolutely. In fact, 25 percent of our entire state budget in Oklahoma is from that industry. This is a state concern. And more than that, we have significant regulation over this industry. Our Corporation Commission has oversight over many of these issues. And so we have regulatory bodies, from DEQ to the Corporation Commission, to others, that are involved in making sure that the air we breathe and the water we drink is -- is clear, in the State of Oklahoma.

SULLIVAN:
Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Senator Gillibrand.

GILLIBRAND:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Pruitt, for being willing to serve this administration, for your interest in public service, and your past public service.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

GILLIBRAND:
I want to talk to you about some of the constituents in my state and the challenges, the very real challenges we face. First, we had millions of people's lives upended with super storm Sandy, I mean millions of people. We had parents who lost their children, who drowned, because of surges of water coming through their homes, through the streets.

The -- the devastation was literally unparalleled in my state. It was just something we had never seen before. And we are going to be looking to you to protect these families, and protect these communities, because we know, with global climate change, the incidence of super storms and violent weather impacts is changed. It's very, very different.

And you've already told folks that you do believe that global climate change is real. It has been cost by -- caused by human activity. Do you believe also that sea levels are rising?

PRUITT:
Senator, I believe that the EPA, addressing this issue because of the Mass v. EPA case, and the endangerment finding, has obligations to address the CO2 issue. The -- in doing so, they need to involve the processes as set up by Congress. And -- and -- and so I think it's very important to do both.

GILLIBRAND:
But -- but you've studied this issue of sea levels. You do realize they are rising. And it's one of the reason why these storm surges were so high, and devastating communities all across New York City. So I need you to be vigilant, because lives are at stake. And I think you have the purview to do that. Will you be vigilant?

PRUITT:
Senator, we will obviously address those issues that we talked about in your office. And I appreciate your passion on this issue.

GILLIBRAND:

One of the other issues that we talked about, that I think is equally as concerning, is issues of mercury that have been raised, about asthma rates that have been raised, about ground water polluted. I've looked at your record. Most of the lawsuits you filed as attorney general were related to businesses, specifically what was important for your state in terms of employers and businesses.

And the few lawsuits you did file about human safety were few and far between. But this role as the head of the EPA, you're going to have a much more important role to play. And I want to talk specifically about mercury. If you believe that mercury is a threat to public health, but oppose the remedy of reducing mercury air pollution from power plants because it's too costly, what then do you think you should do, or what should be done to address the mercury pollution?

PRUITT:
Let me say, Senator, mercury is something -- it is a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112. It is something that the EPA has authority to regulate and should regulate. It should do so, though, within the -- the framework established by this body. And the Supreme Court said that the EPA did not follow the cost-benefit obligations.

It's not that the -- the benefits have to outweigh the cost. It's just that they simply didn't engage in a proper record-based support for their rule. And so that's -- that goes back to earlier questions with other senators about the process mattering, being committed to the rule of law and the rulemaking authority that Congress has given the EPA, in making sure that, as rules are passed, that they can be upheld in court.

GILLIBRAND:
But I need you also to be worried about human health. I -- I understand there's a cost. But when you're talking about lives, and you're talking about children who can't breathe -- I've been to the emergency room at 2 in the morning with a child who can't breathe. It's a horrible thing.

We've had children die in New York City, because none of their teachers, no administrators in the schools knew what to do when a child has an asthma attack. It's a huge problem. So I need you to care about

human health, and -- and really believe that the cost, when human health is at risk, when people are dying, is far higher than it is the cost to that polluter to clean up the air, and change their processes.

I need you to feel it, as if your children, sitting behind you, are the ones in the emergency room. I need you to know it.

PRUITT:
And Senator, I would say to you, there are certain instances where cost can't even be considered, as you know. Those criteria pollutants, under an act, program, cost is not even a factor, because human health is the focus.

GILLIBRAND:
So let's talk about that. So you and I previewed this in my office. We have a horrible problem in New York State, with Superfund sites, and with ground water that is polluted. We have PFOA in our water. We have the largest PCB Superfund site in the United States in the Hudson River.

When families who don't have money fish in the Hudson River, they eat those fish. They get ill. It is horrible. The contaminants are real. They are pervasive, and they are destroying lives. They're also destroying the economy, because when you have contaminants all over the place, you can't sell your house. You can't put in industries that are relying on tourism.

It's a huge problem. So PFOA is an example of a -- of a chemical that needs to be tested. I need you to put it number one on your list, to test it. And if it is the carcinogen that many scientists have said it is, it needs to be banned.

PRUITT:
The TSCA authority that's been granted by this body -- you and I talked about that in your office, PFOA needs to be addressed quickly, even under the Safe Drinking Water Act as well.

GILLIBRAND:
Will you commit to doing that work?

PRUITT:
Yes.

GILLIBRAND:
Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator.

Senator Harper.

HARPER:
Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request I'd like to submit for the record. One -- and this is sort of in response to a question raised by Senator Harris. And Mr. Pruitt, in his response to a question on whether he had ever filed a lawsuit against a corporate entity for violating state or federal pollution, apparently was not correct.

I want to just submit for the record, a list of cases that have been active under Mr. Pruitt's leadership. And notice which ones were started by his predecessor. And it shows that the case in which he mentioned in his exchange with Senator Harris, I think it was the egg case, was it Mahard -- Mahard egg case, actually was initiated, not by Mr. Pruitt, but by -- by his predecessor. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

And I'd like to submit to the record, as well, having heard that some of my Democratic colleagues have expressed their concerns that Attorney General Pruitt is not open to the finding of science, especially as it relates to climate change, this is not so. I'd like to call the committee's attention to a letter by the -- the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation.

The letter is signed by 130 scientists, economists, legal scholars, policy experts, religious leaders, and over 230 other citizens, urging Attorney General Pruitt's confirmation. The group includes David Legates who's a Ph.D. in climatology, professor of climatology and geography at the University of Delaware.

The author praises Pruitt, stating, "Mr. Pruitt has also demonstrated understanding of, and open-mindedness toward scientific insights crucial to the formulation and implementation of environmental regulation."

The organization's founder and national spokesman, Calvin Beisner, is quoted in the press release announcing the letter as saying the following, "Some environmental activists are determined to prevent Mr. Pruitt's confirmation, painting him as a science denier or a climate change denier."

Mr. Beisner continues, "He is neither. He's a solid, common- sense attorney general who will bring much needed reform to the EPA." Without objection, the letter will be submitted for the record.

Senator Wicker.

WICKER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member. I think it's been a good hearing so far, that we have a lot of information that will, that'll be reassuring to the American people.

One thing I -- I do object to, though, it's something that's happened for years since I've been a member of this committee, and that's somehow to -- to list political contributions and -- and suggest that somehow they make an individual suspect or -- or not qualified.

My dear friend from Rhode Island showed a poster, and showed some contributions, and suggested that based on those contributions, from companies like Southern Company, for example, who's contributed to my campaign, that his appropriateness for the job should be -- should be challenged.

And so I'm glad that the chairman had added to the record, this article from September 6, from the Wall Street Journal, September 6 of last year, pointing out the Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton,

raised significantly more money than Donald Trump, from the oil and gas industry. Individuals who worked for oil and gas companies donated $149,000 to Mr. Trump's GOP campaign, as of the date of -- of July 30, compared with $525,000 to Mrs. Clinton.

Mr. Chairman, I'm glad you put this in the record. And presumably, based on that argument, Hillary Clinton would be suspect, were she to have been nominated for the position of heading the EPA.

Now Mr. Attorney General, let's talk about states as partners. And I enjoyed your exchange with Senator Cardin about the Chesapeake Bay Program. As I understand, you actually applaud the Chesapeake Bay Program, and particularly the way the EPA worked with states as partners. Is that correct? And could you enlarge on that?

PRUITT:
Senator, I -- I absolutely applaud the effort by the states to join together in a six-state coalition to address the quality of the Chesapeake's Bay's water quality. That's what we did in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas did with the scenic Illinois River, that's already been talked about with Senator Boozman and others.

And so I think the effort that they engaged in was something that other states ought to model. And the EPA came alongside, and took that TMDL, and is providing assistance to those six states, with respect to that agreement.

WICKER:
Now with regard to the Clean Power Plan, and the waters of the United States rules, where did those regulations go wrong in this respect?

PRUITT:
Well, with respect to the Clean Power Plan, in the case, as the Supreme Court has actually said -- it was an unprecedented step that the Supreme Court took. Never in history had the Supreme Court issued a stay against a rule like the Clean Power Plan. And they did so because of the likelihood of success on the merits, in the sense that the Clean Power Plan didn't -- did not reflect the authority of Congress given to the EPA to regulate CO2.

As an example, with respect to power generation, there has to be a significant finding that it poses risk to public health and welfare. They did not do that. They did not go through the proper processes of inside the fence and regulations of facilities, power generation facilities. So those matters, Senator, are about rule of law. And the same is true with the waters of the United States rule.

WICKER:
Now, you know, and I have not delved into this as an attorney, as you have, but I can tell you that the Department of Environmental Quality in my state told me very emphatically, that the Clean Power Plan would put us out of business, because we -- we would not have had an alternative to the coal that we use. And -- and -- and so I hope we can continue to make progress on this issue.

Let me ask you about wood products. Federal government buys a lot of lumber, uses a lot of wood in construction, and procures a lot of wood. There are standards certifying that the forests are appropriate. One is the American Tree Farm System. Another is the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

EPA seems to like a certification program called the FSC, the Forest Stewardship Council. Problem is, with -- with this -- this certification program, it excludes 90 percent of the lumber grown in the United States of America.

We have had a lot of activity on both sides of the aisle, in challenging this. And -- and I object, also, to a so-called interim recommendation, made by EPA in this regard. As far as I'm concerned, it is discrimination against domestic wood. And now they -- they have come back and told us that this interim recommendation is under review.

Could you comment about both of these, the idea of an interim recommendation being imposed on an entire industry, and also give us any thoughts you have about using the Forest Stewardship Council certification model as opposed to these other perfectly good Sustainable Forestry Initiative and American Tree Farm System?

BARRASSO:
And if I could ask you to it briefly, as the senator's time is about up.

PRUITT:
Senator, as you and I discussed in our meeting, I'm very concerned about the latter issue, and -- and making sure that all voices, all options are considered is something the EPA administrator should do, and I would seek to do, if confirmed.

With respect to the interim step, I think that there is a concern that many have offered, throughout the -- throughout the last several years, that regulators in Washington, not just the EPA, are seeking to use guidance or other steps to avoid what would be called formal rulemaking, that Congress has obligated those agencies to perform, to ensure exactly what you just described, that all voices are heard.

And -- and that's unfortunate when agencies do that, because that's an abuse of the process.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, sir.

WICKER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Senator Sanders.

SANDERS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I apologize for being late, but we were at a hearing with Congressman Price, who is the nominee for HHS, and perhaps not a great idea to have important nominating hearings at exactly the same time. So I apologize for not being here earlier.

My office has received a great deal of comments from people in the State of Vermont, which takes environmental protection very seriously, as well as from all over the country. And the fear is that the nomination of Mr. Pruitt is a nomination designed to protect the fossil fuel industry and not the environment.

I would like to ask Mr. Pruitt a question. I -- as I understand it, earlier in this hearing, you said that Mr. Trump was wrong in suggesting -- in stating over and over again, that climate change was a quote/unquote "hoax." Is that, in fact, the case?

PRUITT:
That is correct, Senator.

SANDERS:
OK. Let me ask you this. As you may know, some 97 percent of scientists, who have written articles for peer reviewed journals, have concluded that climate change is real. It is caused by human activity. And it is already causing devastating problems in our country and around the world. Do you believe that climate change is caused by the emission, by carbon emissions, by human activity?

PRUITT:
Senator, as I indicated -- you weren't in here during my opening statement, but as I indicated in my opening statement, climate -- the climate is changing, and that there -- human activity contributes to that in some manner.

SANDERS:
In some manner?

PRUITT:
Yes, sir.

SANDERS:
Ninety-seven percent of the scientists who wrote articles in peer reviewed journals believe that human activity is the fundamental reason we are seeing climate change. You disagree with that?

PRUITT:

I believe the ability to measure with precision, the degree of human activity's impact on the climate is subject to more debate on whether the climate is changing or whether human activity contributes to it.

SANDERS:
While you are not certain, the vast majority of scientists are telling us that if we do not get our act together, and transform our energy system away from fossil fuel, there is a real question as to the quality of the planet that we are going to be leaving our children and our grandchildren.

So you are applying for a job as administrator for the EPA, to protect our environment. Overwhelming majority of scientists say we have act -- got to act boldly, and you're telling me that there needs to be more debate on this issue, and that we should not be acting boldly?

PRUITT:
No, Senator. I -- as I've indicated, climate -- the climate is changing. And human activity impacts that.

SANDERS:
But you haven't told me why -- why you think the climate is changing.

PRUITT:
Well Senator, the job of the administrator is to carry out the statutes as passed by this body, and to comply with the...

SANDERS:
Why is the climate changing?

PRUITT:
Senator, in response to the CO2 issue, the EPA administrator is constrained by statutes...

SANDERS:
I'm not -- I'm asking you a personal opinion.

PRUITT:
My -- my personal opinion is -- is immaterial...

SANDERS:
Really?

PRUITT:
... to the job of -- to the job of carrying out...

SANDERS:
You are going to be the head of the agency to protect the environment, and your personal feelings about whether climate change is caused by human activity and carbon emissions is immaterial?

PRUITT:
Senator, I've acknowledged to you that the human activity impacts the...

SANDERS:
Impacts?

PRUITT:
Yes.

SANDERS:
Scientific community doesn't tell us it impacts. They say it is the cause of climate change. We have to transform our energy system. Do you believe we have to transform our energy system in order to protect the planet for future generations?

PRUITT:
I believe the EPA has a very important role in regulating the emission...

SANDERS:
You didn't answer my question.

PRUITT:
... of CO2.

SANDERS:
Do you believe we have to transform our energy system away from fossil fuel, to do what the scientific community is telling us, in order to make sure that this planet is healthy for our children and grandchildren?

PRUITT:
Senator, I believe that the administrator has a very important role to perform in regulating CO2.

SANDERS:
Can you tell me, as I think all of us know, Oklahoma has been subjected to a record-breaking number of earthquakes. Scientists in Oklahoma -- or scientists say that Oklahoma's almost certain to have more earthquakes, with heightened risk of a large quake, probable, to endure for a decade, and that the cause of this is fracking.

Can you point me -- picking up on Senator Harris' discussion with you, can you point me to any opinion that you wrote, any enforcement actions you took against the companies that were injecting waste fracking water?

PRUITT:
Senator, let me say, I'm very concerned about the connection between activity in Oklahoma and...

SANDERS:
And therefore you must have taken action, I guess. Can you tell me who you fined for doing this, if you're very concerned?

PRUITT:
The Corporation Commission in Oklahoma is vested with the jurisdiction. And they have actually acted on that.

SANDERS:
And you have made public statements expressing your deep concern about this?

PRUITT:
We have worked with -- there are two...

SANDERS:
You have made public statements -- you're in a state which is seeing a record-breaking number of earthquakes. You're the attorney general. Obviously, you have stood up and said you will do everything you can to stop future earthquakes as a result of fracking?

PRUITT:
Senator, I've acknowledged that I'm concerned about...

SANDERS:
You acknowledged that you are concerned?

PRUITT:
Yes.

SANDERS:
Your state is having a record number of -- well, if that's the kind of administrator for the EPA -- your state's having a record-breaking number of earthquakes. You acknowledge you are concerned. If that's the kind of EPA administrator you will be, you're not going to get my vote.

BARRASSO:
Senator Inhofe.

INHOFE:

Mr. Chairman, you see a request. I ask, at this point in the record -- at this point in the record, that we reprint the Wall Street Journal op-ed piece that was written by two outstanding scientists, called "The Myth of the Climate Change 97 Percent."

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

I have a little bit time left in my questioning from the first round. I just, I wanted to talk about some of the concerns of over- regulation and let me ask, do you have the same concerns of the over- regulation of U.S. manufacturing over the last eight years? I believe it's exported manufacturing jobs overseas, jobs that go with them, in terms of the manufacturing of those goods, to places like China and India, that are going to produce those products in a less environmentally friendly way.

And you'd agree with -- agree with this notion that this approach harms not just our -- the environment, but also our own U.S. economy?

PRUITT:
I believe, Senator, that it puts us at an economic disadvantage, when we don't hear all voices in the rulemaking process with respect to these issues. Absolutely.

BARRASSO:
I'd also like to submit for the record, one, an -- a op-ed on CNN by Jeb Bush, saying, "Scott Pruitt is ready to turn around the EPA, that I cannot think of a person more suited to lead the Environmental Protection Agency than Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt. He has acknowledged human impact on the climate, and supports a robust discussion about its effects and what the government should and shouldn't do to address it."

And then also submitting for the record, a -- a report that -- that I did as a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, of this committee -- this was a couple of years ago, called, "Red Tape Making Americans Sick."

I put this together as a physician, where we talk about unemployment, long-term unemployment increases the likelihood of hospital visits, illnesses, premature deaths in communities, due to joblessness. It hurts children's health, hurts family well-being, and quote scientists who point that the unemployment rate is well- established as a risk factor for elevated illness and mortality rates in epidemiological studies performed since the 80s.

And additionally, there is influencing on mental disorders, on suicide, alcohol abuse, alcoholism. We also see it with spouse abuse, drug abuse, so that the regulations that come out of the EPA, that do cut into employment of hard-working Americans, actually contributes to a deterioration of their health. I don't know if you have any comments on that, or what you may have seen in Oklahoma at times of unemployment.

PRUITT:
Senator, we have seen similar issues in Oklahoma. We have prescription drug abuse that occurs at rates that are unprecedented, as in other parts of the country. And so there is a similar concern that we have in Oklahoma.

BARRASSO:
It is -- I appreciate your -- your patience, your honesty, your forthright presentation this morning. We are going to go to a second round. I now have a 12 -- about 12:45.

If it's all right with you, Ranking Member Carper, we'll come back in an hour. We'll take an hour break and come back and resume in the second round of questioning at 1:45. The committee is in recess.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

(RECESS)

BARRASSO:

We'll resume the confirmation hearing for Scott Pruitt EPA Administrator. And, Attorney General Pruitt, let me just start by saying, sometimes you get a chance to sit down over lunch, and you say, "I've been answering questions for two and a half hours. You know, I wish I had said something differently about something or other." Anything that you'd like to clarify?

PRUITT:
Just one point of clarification, in response to Senator Whitehouse's questions this morning about different environmental enforcement steps we've taken. With respect to the leaky underground storage and double-dipping in our state, I've initiated, officially, three cases there with respect to Valero, BP, and Conoco.

Exxon and a number of other cases are still in settlement discussions, and so those cases have not materialized in actual litigation just yet.

BARRASSO:
Thank you for that clarification. Anyway, a couple of quick questions. In the city of Cheyenne, Wyoming, it was discovered that trichloroethylene, that's a chemical that's been used by the military to degrease the engines of rocket motors, was seeping into the cities drinking water supply.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which was in charge of a nearby former Atlas nuclear missile site, refused to even admit that the site was the cause of the pollution. I fought the Corps on this to do testing needed, to prove what was obvious to everyone who looked at it. The test results showed a large plume coming from the Atlas site directly into the city's wells.

The court is now addressing the pollution of the city's water supply. It's now protected through a state-of-the-art water treatment facility that's installed by the corps. But, can you give me a -- perhaps an example when you served as Oklahoma State Attorney General where you went after polluters, and you held them accountable in that same way?

PRUITT:

Yes, Senator. As I indicated earlier -- and I think this was indicated in -- in -- in this morning's testimony, I mentioned the case with the (inaudible) producing (inaudible), and that was something that we actually initiated. I know there was some question that Senator Carper raised in that regard.

That was both in respect to federal and state violations and we actually joined the state of Texas and the EPA in that enforcement action. But, I've submitted for the record, as you know, a list of cases where we've worked with the Wildlife Commission in Oklahoma, the DEQ, around (inaudible) matters and enforcement of our state laws.

BARRASSO:
The -- it's interesting. What was troubling to many of us in the previous administration was when officials within the Obama administration went to extraordinary lengths to avoid disclosing their official written communications under the Freedom of Information Act. This is the law that allows public access to government records.

For example EPA administrator Lisa Jackson, at the time, used an EPA email account under the name of Richard Windsor -- Richard Windsor, as opposed to her own email account. And so, if confirmed, will you refrain from taking any such action that makes it difficult or impossible for the public to access your official written communications under the Freedom of Information Act? PRUITT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And as I indicated in my opening statement, I really believe that (inaudible) participation, transparency, and rulemaking is very important, and I think that extends to this matter as well. BARRASSO: I will reserve the reminder -- remainder of my time. Senator Carper.

CARPER:
Thanks. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. We -- as -- as we discussed before, you're part of -- I think -- at least three lawsuits, Mr. Pruitt. I think one is pending on the -- the EPAs efforts to reduce mercury emissions from power plants.

And we know that 50 percent of our nation's mercury emissions come from -- from power plants. Not nuclear plants, but generally fossil fuel plants, largely coal fire plants. We know that there are more fish consumption advisories in the U.S. for mercury than I think all other contaminants combined, including in your home state of Oklahoma.

If you believe that the EPA should not move forward on the -- the Mercury and Air Toxics rule, how do states clean up mercury? What do you think are the health impacts of mercury emissions?

PRUITT:
Senator, I actually have not stated that I believe the EPA should not move forward on regulating mercury or -- or adopting rulemaking in that regard. Our - our challenge was with regard to the process that was used in that case, and how it was not complicit with the statutes as defined by Congress.

So, there is not a statement, nor a belief that I have, that mercury is something that shouldn't be regulated under section 112 as a hazardous air pollutant. I have, as you know -- that is a -- that section deals with directly health concerns of our citizens.

That's the reason why there is controlled technology that is very heightened in that statute, Maximum Achievable Control Technology, that - that is required. And so, I believe that mercury should be dealt with, and dealt with in a meaningful way by the EPA, but subject to the processes that this body has outlined.

CARPER:
Senator (inaudible) and I worked together for a number of years on Clear Skies legislation. The George Bush Administration had proposed Clear Skies dealing with sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and mercury. And several colleagues of my own, including Senator Alexander worked on legislation similar.

One of the differences between what we proposed and the Bush Administration proposed, was with respect to reducing the emissions of mercury. I don't recall exactly what the Bush proposal called for in terms of emission reductions from -- from power plants, and others from mercury but it wasn't very aggressive.

I proposed a -- a reduction of 80 percent over a certain number of years. Senator Alexander said he thought that folks could do better than 80 percent, and he proposed 90 percent reduction schedule.

We had literally here at this table, witnesses from utilities, and one witness from a trade association, representing technology companies that focused on reducing emissions of harmful substances into our air and to our water. Every utility representatives said, "We cannot meet an 80 percent reduction in mercury."

The witness from the trade association representing the - the industry, in which -- and this is just to try to reduce emissions like mercury -- said not only can we meet -- industry can we meet those reductions over the stipulated period of time, they can exceed them. As it turns out, they exceeded them.

They actually did better than 80 percent. She did better than 90 percent. They did it more quickly than I think was anticipated. Is that instructive to you in any way on this question?

PRUITT:
Is that what? I'm sorry.

CARPER:
Instructive to you. Is there any lesson there for you or for us from that experience?

PRUITT:
Well, as I've indicated Senator, I really believe that it's important that it's a partnership between the EPA and the states. I made reference to the phrase earlier, "national standards and neighborhood solutions."

I -- I think that that shows that the EPA can be involved, and should be involved, in setting standards, setting objective, science- based standards, to improve air quality and protecting the health of our citizens, but also be a meaningful partner with the states in implementing those laws.

CARPER:

Let me just stop you there, please. The -- I like to say, "In adversity lies opportunity." That's not me. That's Albert Einstein. But the -- there is economic advantage to be gained from cleaning up pollution. We've seen it.

There's companies that worked on the mercury emissions, they made money doing that -- installing that technology around the world. Similarly there has been money made from Diesel Emission Reduction Act. The American technology reducing emissions from -- from old diesel -- diesel engines.

Have you -- do you ever give any thought to that, the economic gain, the economic advantage that can flow from developing that technology to reduce emissions? I actually think that some regulations, clear regulation -- and I'll never forget a conversation we had with -- when we were working on our Clear Skies legislation, addressing foreign pollutants, meeting with a bunch of utility CEOs, and we're talking about how to go forward on this -- that issue.

And at the end of the conversation, one of the utility CEOs, I think it was (inaudible), older fellow, and I don't remember where he's from, but he said -- at the end of the day, he said, "Here's what you need to do." -- you, us, Congress, CPA -- "You need to tell us what the rules are gonna be. You need to give us some time, some flexibility. And you need to get out of the way." That's what he said.

Tell us what the rules are going to be, give us some flexibility, and get out of the way. Do you believe that actually setting standards -- whatever it happens to be, with mercury reductions with (inaudible) standards, with fuel efficiency requirements, that actually setting those standards, making it clear, that we actually provide certainty and actually open the door for economic -- economic productivity -- production?

PRUITT:
I do, Senator, actually.

CARPER:
Can you give us an example where you actually saw that happen -- were helpful in making that happen?

PRUITT:
In Oklahoma-- this is not widely known because we are known as an oil and gas state, but -- but in the generation of electricity in our state, 17 percent of our electricity is generated through wind. And so, we've had a heavy emphasis on renewables. And that puts us in top three of the country.

And so, our corporation commission -- I actually have obligations to appear before the Corporation Commission, in the setting of rates. So, as utility companies are looking at modifying their facilities to comply with environmental statutes, there is great discussion about how to do that more economically, and to achieve the -- the air quality objectives we have, under EPA mandates and state mandates.

And so, I've been very involved in that process, through that part of my office.

CARPER:
Thanks. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Carper. Senator Capito.

CAPITO:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again before being before us and congratulations on your nomination.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

CAPITO:
You know, I think that as you can tell from this committee and really the country, is divided on a lot of the issues in and around involving what you're endeavoring to headline here at the EPA. But I think that understanding one another is extremely important no matter how many times I might say the same thing and somebody else on the other side might say the same thing.

It gives me a greater understanding of where they live and how they -- how they think the best way to pursue environmental issues are. So, in the crowd that joined us here after lunch, are several coal miners, who traveled all morning -- have been waiting in the hall and made some new friends in the audience there and I want to thank them for coming.

Because those are the faces of the issues that I try to address when we're talking about the different facets of the regulatory environment that we see that's been put forth over the last several years.

So this question's for you all. In my very first hearing as a United States Senator on this committee we had the Assistant Administrator, Janet, McCabe, she came to testify about EPA CO2 rules.

When I pressed her about why in the public meetings on the existing plant rules EPA had not bothered to come to West Virginia or for that matter any of the other states that most heavily rely on coal for electricity generation, this is what she said. And I quote, "We tried to when we were scheduling national level meetings we wanted to have those in locations where people were comfortable coming."

Well, Mr. Attorney General, I want you to be comfortable coming anywhere in this country to talk about -- whether it's Rhode Island or whether it's West Virginia, Alaska -- people need to know that you're listening and you care, and that you're understanding the ramifications for the decisions that you make.

So this didn't sit very well for me. We had a meeting after that in Beckley, West Virginia, which is the birthplace of the ranking member and we had Bo Copley there, who was a laid off coal miner. He talked about all the hardships of his friends and neighbors.

We had the county commissioner who talked about the loss of revenue to the county and how it's impacting the school systems, and the real estate values, and the bankruptcies of all of the difficult coal companies, and people who have been out of work.

So I would implore you to commit today to visit West Virginia, both sides of West Virginia and to talk to our coal miners and their families. To talk about what the job and economic impacts, and how we can work together with both sides to try to get to the intended goal of cleaner air, and cleaner water.

PRUITT:
Senator, I really appreciate you sharing that, and that's the reason I mention in my opening statement the importance of listening and leading. This process that I've been a part of obviously is very new, but I spent time with each of you, many of you, in individual meetings and Senator Gillibrand talked about issues that were important to her, around CERCLA.

You cited concerns and issues that are important to you in West Virginia. I think it's a very important if confirmed as administrator that I spend time responding, learning, and listening to you and your respective states and trying to be helpful with regard to the environmental issues that you face.

CAPITO:
Thank you. Thank you, that means a lot. Thank you. I would like to get some clarification on a topic that kind of has been coming up and coming up about how many times you as the Attorney General have sued the EPA. And you began your statement by saying that, "The rule of law is very important to you."

And then you talked about several of the cases, and probably most of the cases that you brought forward, is not challenging the regulations so much as the process or whether the rule of law has been overstepped in the boundaries of the EPA has been the -- intent of Congress by legislating to the EPA has been overstepped.

And the courts have agreed in some cases, that this is the case. Could you kind of restate that position on the -- on the different actions?

PRUIT:
Well, Senator, as I've indicated, I think in response to Senator Sullivan, probably more so than most statutes that are passed by Congress, this body has recognized the very important and vibrant role the states play in partnership with the EPA at implementing and enforcing our environmental statutes.

And many of you have talked about that in your offices. How your DEQ works at the Reginal Administrator. And -- and -- so when we talk about rule of law as you deal with mercury, as you deal with CO2, as you deal

with water issues around what is the definition and in those cases it's important that you do so consistent with the framework that's been established by this body, and it's respected.

Because that gives confidence to the people are regulating. You know, when you have an administrative agency of any type that acts inconsistent or tries to enlarge its authority, it really doesn't inspire confidence, in those that are regulated.

You're seeing a matter of picking winners and losers, and being against certain things, as opposed to protecting people and so that rule of law is not something that's academic in my view. It's not something that's just legal. I think it's important to ensuring good outcomes as far as improving our air and protecting our waters.

CAPITO:
Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator Whitehouse.

WHITEHOUSE:
Thank you, Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, when we left off we were talking about things that, to quote the Chairman, "might place to you in a conflict of interest, but have not been disclosed" and we were talking about the dark money operation that supports the Republican Attorney General's Association.

Before we get back into that, let me ask you this as a hypothetical, if you had raised significant amounts of money for the Rule of Law Defense Fund from corporations who will be subject to EPA's regulation, before EPA, with matters before EPA, might that place you in a conflict of interest?

PRUITT:

The -- the EPA ethics council has said -- and by the way these are career individuals as you know, Senator. Adjusting a few is a career person at EPA ethics and so as they've reviewed these potential conflicts they -- they have -- I've disclosed all entities that I've been affiliated with --

WHITEHOUSE:
I understand that, but I'm asking you if you think it might place you in a conflict of interest because we both understand that the ethics rules that the EPA is enforcing pre-dates Citizens United, pre-date dark money and they've said in the letter they aren't even looking at that because they don't have the authority to.

That doesn't mean it's not a conflict of interest. It means that the regulatory authority on government ethics hasn't caught up with this post Citizens United dark money world. My question is, you're a lawyer, you know conflicts of interest, you've been an Attorney General.

Might it be a conflict of interest within your definition of the term if you had raised significant amounts of money for this Rule of Law Defense Fund and they had business before -- and they'll have business before EPA with you? Is that a potential conflict of interest?

PRUITT:
I think just in -- if you actually did address those entities to the degree that I was never on officer of the super fund that you -- the super pack that you referred to earlier, the Liberty 2.0, and so they looked at those --

WHITEHOUSE:
The question was fund-raising

PRUITT:
They looked at those entities --

WHITEHOUSE:
That's the question we don't have any answers on, is what you raised.

PRUITT:
They looked at those entities to determine what the nature of my relationship was, and then indicated that those would have to be evaluated in the future, as cases arose. And --

WHITEHOUSE:
Right now, the Chairman asked you a question, which is are there matters that might place you in a conflict of interest that you have not disclosed. You answered, "No." Might not having raised significant money, let's say a million dollars.

Let's say you made a call to Devon Energy, and said, "I did your letter for you, (inaudible) needs a lot of money, we've got this dark money thing where we can launder your identity clean off it, and the money will go into (inaudible). I need a million bucks out of you. Might that not create a conflict of interest for you if that were the facts?

PRUITT:
Ms. Few (ph) has indicated, in her letter to me, -- again these are career individuals at EPA ethics -- that if a particular matter involving specific parties arise in the future it will be evaluated at that point --

WHITEHOUSE:
How will they know if you are not willing to disclose that you raised the hypothetical million dollars from Devon Energy?

PRUITT:
Well, those are not even covered entities under her letter at this --

WHITEHOUSE:
That's my point, but that may very well create a conflict of interest, mightn't it?

PRUITT:
Senator, I did not serve in an officer capacity at that entity. In fact --

WHITEHOUSE:
You've said that already too. But that's -- that also not the question. The question is a very simple one, did you raise money for the Rule of Law Defense Fund from entities that will appear before EPA as potential defendants and subject to regulation and if so, how much, and what did you tell them? And what did you ask? It seems to me that's not an unusual or --

PRUITT:
The Rule of Law Defense Fund, according to Ms. Few, would need to be a party in the future for that to be an issue. That's what she's indicated in her letter to me. At the time, if issues arise in the future I will seek the counsel of EPA ethics, involve the advice of those career folks, and make a decision, and recuse if necessary. That is something I commit to doing.

WHITEHOUSE:
But, at this point -- at this point, what I deduce from your statement is that if that set of hypothetical facts were true, if you had raised a million dollars from a big energy corporation to go through the Rule of Law Defense Fund, to support your efforts at (inaudible) that that is not something anybody should care about even if that corporation is before you at EPA and subject to your regulation --

PRUITT:
Oh, I think it's something that if presented in the future, that would -- (inaudible) a few, myself -- EPA ethics would evaluate that and I would take the appropriate steps to recuse if --

WHITEHOUSE:
But, how would it be presented in the future if you are not willing to present it now? Why would it matter in the future and not now?

PRUITT:

If there is a matter -- a case that comes before the EPAs authority. That would be something -- there's ongoing, as you know, Senator, Ms. Few indicated this in her letter -- there's ongoing obligations that I will have if confirmed as administrator to bring those kinds of matters to the attention of EPA ethics.

WHITEHOUSE:
Well, for what it's worth I think that the Senate has a role in policing this as well. That the whole purpose of advice and consent, and the reason there are these government ethics filings, is so that we can look at this exact question.

And the fact they haven't been updated to take into account dark money and all of these big political organizations that have been created with dark money, doesn't take away our Senate obligation to find out what conflicts of interest you will bring to the position of Administrator. And it gives me very little comfort that you're not willing to answer those questions here.

My time has expired. I'll continue in other rounds.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much, Senator Whitehouse. I would like to introduce, for the record, an article, the Associate Press in the Seattle Times headlined, "Ethics Officials Clear Trump EPA Nominee."

It says, "The Office of Government Ethics on Monday, released the personal financial disclosure report for Scott Pruitt, currently Oklahoma's Attorney General. The -- the Ethics Office affirmed that Pruitt's disclosures comply with applicable federal laws and rules.

His finances, it says, are among the least complicated of Trumps cabinet nominees." Senator Boozman.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I -- I really do find it ironic -- ironic and hypocritical that we're in a situation that my friends on the other side of the aisle of this committee using their definition of dark money as elected officials have literally raised millions of dollars of so-called dark money.

The -- I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the over regulatory burden that the states are facing. Air quality in Arkansas, is among some of the cleanest in the nation despite the progress that that the state has made, looking forward try to do the right thing. The Regional Haze federal plan is going to produce a tremendous economic burden on 'em.

I think it's a prime example of the haphazard regulatory atmosphere we that we've had in the past, with little input from the states and stakeholders. For years the regulatory certainty has prevented businesses from hiring new employees, stunting economic growth.

In fact the National Small Business Association that was just released, found that more than half of small businesses have held off on hiring because they don't know what the rules are gonna be.

Can you -- you've mentioned several times -- can you talk a little bit more about the impact that you've seen in regard to regulatory uncertainty in the state of Oklahoma? The experiences you've had.

PRUITT:
Senator, the visibility program, we've had similar challenges in Oklahoma. The Regional Aids Program under the Clean Air Act, that section of the Clean Air Act is really quite a bit different than other provisions of the Clean Air Act. It gives promise to the states in adopting plans to increase or improve visibility.

That particular section of the law says that by the year 2064, that we should have natural visibility in some key areas across the country. Oklahoma several years ago -- actually in 2010, under a different administration, both Governor and Attorney General submitted a state implementation plan that beat that deadline by decades.

But despite that, the EPA came in and rejected that state implementation plan and forced a federal implementation plan on the state, costing consumers quite a bit of money. One thing that I would add that I didn't talk about earlier, we talked about -- we talked about cooperative federalism and the importance of partnership.

I talked about that. You've talked about that. Under this past administration the use of federal implementation plans, if you combine President Bush, President Clinton and President George W. Bush, those three administrations combined, they issued five federal implementation plans under the Clean Air Act, in three administrations.

This administration has issued 56. So it shows an attitude of indifference. An attitude of trying to be dictatorial in some respects toward the state's role or manipulative of the state's role in a way that's, I think, counterproductive for air quality.

BOOZMAN:
So, when you and fellow Attorney Generals, other stakeholders sue the Federal Government whether its Regional Haze or Waters of the U.S. or whatever, your goal is not to do away with regulation, your goal is to make it such that the EPA follow their regulatory authority. Is that correct?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. And in an example I provided to you, where the state implementation plan of Oklahoma that was rejected we actually satisfied the statutory mandate, it was under the regionalized program.

We reached natural visibility a couple decades ahead of schedule. The methodology that was used, the EPA just simply disagreed with it. And so, they used their authority to displace that state plan, costing consumers in the state hundreds of millions of dollars in increased utility costs.

BOOZMAN:
One of the things that -- that I think we've seen also in the last eight years is tremendous mission creep on the part of the EPA where they have gotten into areas where they don't have the expertise.

They don't have the -- the, you know, the well expertise I think would be the best word, in regards to coming out with some of the things they've done where they lack jurisdiction and haven't really been in the past.

Can we count on you to work with the other agencies to take their expertise into careful consideration as we come out with the rules and regulations?

PRUITT:
I think interagency cooperation is very, very important. Obviously with rulemaking that's something that occurs, and should occur, I think, in a very collaborative way. And so yes, Senator, I believe it's very important as the EPA conducts its business, that it works with the core -- works with other agencies at the federal level to ensure that it's doing all it can to advance and protect water quality and air quality. But, do so in the framework established by Congress.

BOOZMAN:
And, does it feel like it's the ultimate decider, again, when they sometimes do not have the expertise of the other agencies?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. I agree.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you.

PRUITT:
Thank you.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Boozman. Senator Merkley.

MERKLEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, are you -- are you familiar with this piece of medical equipment?

PRUITT:
Yes, an inhaler it looks like?

MERKLEY:
Yes, an asthma inhaler. The -- are you familiar with how many Americans have asthma?

PRUITT:
No, Senator, I'm not.

MERKLEY:
Well, it's about 1 out of 10 Americans including over 7 million children, so it's a pretty significant health problem across the country and I know I have been fortunate not to have asthma, but some folks I know who have and have asthma attacks feel like they're suffocating and sometimes they go into crisis.

People go into crisis with asthma, sometimes they -- they die from it, so it's a terrifying condition. And, the EPA in October 2015 strengthened the national ambient air quality standards for ground- level ozone.

They strengthened it to 70 parts per billion adjusting it from 75 parts per billion, because they argued it was an attainable standard that would save 3 to 6 billion dollars, and in addition of course, greatly improves the quality of life by diminishing the amount of -- of asthma attacks and -- and deaths. And, you challenge this.

You -- you launched a lawsuit against this -- this standard. And, was the basis of your lawsuit cost-benefit analysis, that they didn't follow their process?

PRUITT:
It was not, Senator. As you know, under the Nash (ph) Program, the Whitman (ph) Decision says cost cannot be considered in a criteria pollutant.

MERKLEY:
And what was the standard that you were challenging?

PRUITT:
It was a records based challenge that the need to -- to -- to ratchet down from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion -- as you know the 70 parts per billion had only been in the operation for two years. And I think, Senator, it's important from a priority perspective. A resource perspective of the EPA when 40 percent of the country is in nonattainment for one of those criteria pollutants perhaps there should be focus on how to meet the level already in statute, or already in rule --

MERKLEY:
You challenge this based on the attainability standard? I already know that --

PRUITT:
It was a records based challenge, yes.

MERKLEY:
It's attainability standard. And there were numerous groups that -- that weighed in and said, "No, this is totally attainable." And, I'll submit a list for the record, of that, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

MERKLEY:
And, the key to this is that by implementing that -- by the time it's implemented -- it would save annually 230,000 -- an estimate of course -- asthma attacks among children, 160,000 missed school days, a tremendous number of missed workdays, 630 emergency room visits and 340 cases of acute bronchitis.

But, it also would save -- best estimate -- 320 to 660 premature deaths. So here is something that profoundly affects the health of folks in Oklahoma and folks across the country, folks in my home state of Oregon.

Something that expert after expert said is fully attainable, and you challenge it not on a process issue that is not on whether or not there was a cost-benefit analysis, because as you rightly pointed out, cost is not allowed to be a factor, but whether it was attainable.

So, why fight so hard on the side of the oil industry? Rather than fighting on the side of the health of the people of Oklahoma? PRUITT: Senator, let me say to you with respect to the NASH program, when you look at the nonattainment we have in this country, it's presently around 40 percent. I think increasing the nonattainment percentage, as opposed to focusing resources to get nonattainment into attainment, is a very important role of the EPA.

We should taking those marginal and moderate areas in our map, that are nonattainment, and work with local officials, those counties, through monitoring and assistance to help move from nonattainment to attainment. That is a very important goal of the EPA. In each of these --

MERKLEY:
Thank you. Thank you. You've made your point clear. I just simply disagree with you. None of these standards when they are set are attained. That is the point. It is an objective to be worked at over time. There was a strategy that this might take until 2025 to be fully implemented.

But, in the course of laying out that vision and having folks across the country work towards that vision, you end up saving a tremendous amount of money and a tremendous amount of lives.

And I, as a Senator from Oregon, fighting for the quality of life of Oregonians, deeply resent folks fighting for oil industry, that are trying to damage the health of my constituents, and Americans across this country. It is a question of values.

And valuing profits of companies over the health of our citizens is a character issue and that is what these hearings are all about. We are charged with Hamilton, to determine whether or not an individual is of fit character. To me this is a character issue -- valuing profits over people's health. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:

Thank you, Senator Merkley. I'm submitting for the record a report by the National Black Chamber of Commerce entitled "Potential Impact of Proposed EPA Regulations on Low Income Groups and Minority."

The report goes from 2015, goes on to say that, EPA regulations including its regulation on carbon dioxide emissions would result in the year 2020, nearly 200,000 black jobs would be lost and more than 300,000 Hispanic jobs would be lost and additionally there would be commencement with this a medium household income significant decreases throughout the communities listed in the report. Senator Fischer.

FISCHER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And we're -- here we go again on round two, so I am happy that we have an opportunity to continue questioning with you General Pruitt. Nebraska, much like Oklahoma is a rural state and with many cases the closest town or the neighbor can be located miles and sometimes hours away.

In Nebraska one of four jobs is directly tied to production agriculture. Under this administration farmers and ranchers felt especially targeted by the EPA. For example, in 2011 and 2012, EPA region seven conducted aerial surveillance or flyovers of feed yards in my state. While flying over my state the EPA documented these facilities with photographs.

This was very disconcerting to me given that many livestock producers in Nebraska also live and raise their families on these properties. Not only were these producers not informed beforehand, but the EPA has already delegated the authority to carry out the Clean Water Act in Nebraska to the State Department of Economic -- or Environmental Quality.

What will you do to ensure that the EPA sticks to its core mission and furthermore, how will you work with the regulated community including agriculture to build trust among constituencies that have been I would say the subject of bullying tactics by this EPA that we have now?
PRUITT: Senator, as I indicated in my opening statement some core themes if confirmed as administrator that I would seek to comply with.

One is public participation, full participation to ensure that all voices are heard as the EPA conducts its activities with respect to rulemaking particularly.

And I think that perhaps what you are referring to is a lack of that voice, or opportunity in the last several years. And so, I would work to build a collaborative relationship with those states as I've indicated.

I think the Departments of Environmental Quality at the state level are valuable partners that we need to restore their confidence in the partnership with the EPA and then seek to listen to the community concerns in addressing and responding to environmental issues

FISCHER:
Thank you. In one of her exit interviews EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has admitted that she has had a bad relationship with agriculture and with the agricultural community and she listed it as one of her regrets.

I think a bad relationship is an understatement in this case. This administration's EPA philosophy is diametrically opposed to the idea that farmers can be good stewards of our land, our water, our environment and instead it seemed that this administration's EPA wanted to regulate and in some cases it looked like they wanted to prevent farming.

The agricultural community is looking forward to a new leadership with the EPA and working with you. And Mr. Chairman, I have here some statements from agriculture officials and groups that I would like inserted into the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

FISCHER:
And, if I may, I would close by quoting a few of those. Jim Reese, the Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture says that, "Scott Pruitt will continued EPAs effort to protect our environment, but with respect towards land owners, taxpayers, municipalities, businesses and Congress."

That is nice to hear, sir. Troy Stillwater, Nebraska Cattleman President stated, "Simply put, Mr. Pruitt sees clearly that agriculture and environment are not opposing terms, but rather, they are complementary.

He will work to cultivate the relationships, which will lead to the United States leading in food and fiber production, while improving the environment in which it is accomplished." Again, I am happy to -- to look forward to that relationship being established again, so that all parts of our society here in this country can participate and receive the recognition that we are good stewards of the land.

If confirmed, what -- what will be your relationship with the agricultural community? Are you going to enforce current laws, and will you also respect the limits that we have on those laws?

PRUITT:
Yes, on both accounts, Senator. And also the theme that I mentioned in my opening statement that I would highlight again, is that we -- we need to reject this paradigm that if you're pro- energy you're anti-environment, if you're pro-environment, you're anti- energy.

I believe that we as a country have demonstrated, we've made great progress since the 1970s improving our air quality and protecting our waters. We can grow an economy and also protect and be a good steward of our environment. And we need to restore that proper balance and commitment to both, as we seek to do our job.

FISCHER:
Thank you. As I -- as I said earlier, every member of this committee believes in clean air, clean water. We want an environment that is -- that is respected where we can manage our natural resources in a responsible manner, so thank you, sir.

PRUITT:
Yes, Ma'am.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator Cardin.

CARDIN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, I want to try to get your understanding, I heard you say that you wanted to see the regulations and laws predictable, so that the stakeholders know exactly what is required, so there's lack of -- there's no confusion. So I want to concentrate on the waters of the U.S.

Because, ever since the Supreme Court decisions, there has been an uncertainty as to what waters are in fact subject to regulation by the federal government and what waters are not. Do you believe that, that clarity should be set by statute, or should it be set by regulations from the EPA?

PRUITT:
Senator, I think it's a great -- a great question, and you look at the series of cases going back to Bayview, all the way back to Rapanos. I think that you're exactly right. The definition in the Clean Water Act says that navigable waters, are waters of the United States. That doesn't provide a great deal of clarity to those that administer the law.

And I think the EPA taking steps to provide clarity is important, absent Congress responding. So I -- I think that perhaps there is a time and place for Article I response, Congressional response to what this body means when it says navigable waters, or waters of the United States.

CARDIN:
And, of course, the Congress, for whatever reasons, for a long period of time, has not been able to respond as to what we think the definition of the waters of the U.S. should be. The Administration did come forward with proposed regulations, which were resisted by many of the stakeholders that you are aware of.

How would you -- what did -- what would -- how would you define the waters of the U.S.? What was wrong in the regulation? I don't want to go through all the details, but tell me, you know, where do you think we should regulate?

You already said more than just navigable, so what -- what -- how do we define it? How do you do it? Where did the Administration go wrong?

PRUITT:
The challenge, up until now, with respect to the current rule, this involves actually an error case, the U.R. case where Justice Scalia talked about the counterbalance to Massachusetts EPA where the steps taken by the EPA to take the endangerment finding in 2009 that dealt with mobile -- Title II mobile sources.

And then link that over to the PSD program was something that Justice Scalia said, transformed the statute and was not lawful or constitutional. I think the same thing perhaps is going on with the current rule, that there really isn't -- when you, when you are classifying dry creek beds in Southeast Oklahoma that are dry 90 percent of the year, as a water of the United States, that clear is something that is ...

CARDIN:
Sir, the administration in its regulation had certain exceptions that tried to deal with that. You obviously didn't think those exceptions where clear enough?

PRUITT:
Well, actually the Sixth Circuit said that, that those clarifications were not sufficient. I would agree with you Senator Cardin that I believe the clarity around this definition, the jurisdiction of the EPA is essential to get right and to address.

And as I indicated earlier to some questions, the Supreme Court is actually taken up a matter from last Friday, it's more jurisdictional and not merit based, but the response by Congress, the response to provide clarity perhaps is a very important step to take.

CARDIN:
Well, I want to pursue this and I think maybe ask questions for the record as to specific provisions that you believe should be in that rule that would be than the proposed rule and I appreciate response to that so we can try to see where we're heading in your thought process as to how you define the regulated waters of the U.S. That would be helpful to us.

PRUITT:
And -- and I think Senator, the reason that's difficult, as you know is because in that process, whatever process that would take -- take place, that would be rule making, which means that there'd be comments and ...

CARDIN:
Well, I understand that. I'm not trying to get every I dotted, ever T -- just want to get your philosophy as to where the waters of the U.S. lines would be drawn and where you took exception to the regulatory efforts of the Obama administration.

Let me get to the second point, if I might on fracking. Fracking's an interesting area because it's state regulated principally. There's very few federal regulations. There's been -- and my state has gas deposits that could be subject to fracking and Pennsylvania, our neighboring state has done that.

There's been some problems with polluting -- pollution in water. We know about the gas releases, it's already been talked about. There's some concern particularly with deep well drilling that when you inject the fluids back into the cavities that it may cause instability.

In your state, I know there were a lot of earthquakes. There've been talking about how, whether these earthquakes were motivated by the fracking activities or not. How well have the states regulated fracking and where do you see the federal role should be in protecting our environment from fracking?

PRUITT:
Well, I think -- I'm glad you've mentioned the state role because we've actually been regulating hydraulic fracking in Oklahoma since the late 1940s, early 1950s. It's -- it's not a new process. Horizontal drilling is, but the hydraulic fracturing process is not and many states have been very aggressive at regulating for a number of decades.

With response to -- response to the seismic issue that you're talking about, the earthquakes in Oklahoma, the Corporation Commission has actually declared off limits certain drilling activity in hot spots already. They've taken a very aggressive approach.

And I too share their concern. I've been in conversation with the commissioners at the Corporation Commission. That's who has jurisdiction in this matter. And they have taken, again, very meaningful steps to declare off limits certain drilling activity to try to see if it will it help reduce the number of earthquakes happening in Oklahoma, and it has helped.

CARDIN:
Thank you. Thanks Mr. ...

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Thanks Mr. -- thank you Senator Cardin. Senator Inhofe?

INHOFE:
Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have two unique Senate requests, so don't start my clock yet. One is, I really believe and perhaps I'm a little bit sensitive to this but that, Mr. Pruitt's integrity has been put into question with the accusations of contributions to his campaign.

I'd like to keep in mind that although the oil industry is a huge industry in the United State of Oklahoma. They have things called PACs where the middle income people will say, yes, we are -- you know, they supported me also.

But I would -- I think that we need to have in the record that there are somethings that are going on that should not be going on, and this affects the Democrats and not the Republicans. There's a guy named, Tom Styer (ph), and I'm going to put this in the record, who actually said he was going to put $100 million into campaigns of the individuals talking about the global warming and what they expected. I -- in 2016, he didn't do that.

He only put in -- I'm sorry, '14 -- $75 million of his own money. In 2016, he was the largest contributor putting in $86 million of his own money. I'm not going to read this because it does reflect the names of people who are at this dais. I ask that this, you know, to consent to this being entered into the record.

BARRASSO:

Without objection.

INHOFE:
Another thing --

CARPER:
I'd really like to object -- I need to ask for a clarification from my friend from Oklahoma. The -- the monies that you're referring to, were those donations that were disclosed, fully disclosed?

INHOFE:
Oh yes, I believe they were.

CARPER:
Then that does not sound like dark money to me.

INHOFE:
Well, all right. Anyway on the last question that -- that Mr. Pruitt had concerning the earthquakes, I'd like to make this a part of the record, because I'm surprised, you guys that the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has really focused in on this thing and talked -- and talked about this is waste water and disposal wells that we're concerned with.

They clamped down on it and you're exactly right in your response to the question, except you didn't go far enough. In 2016, they actually reduced the earthquakes by 31 percent. And so we are doing, in the state of Oklahoma something that is -- is -- we've been complemented about, the fact that we are taking the -- taking these -- these actions. So I'd like to make this as a part ...

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

INHOFE:

... of the record. Now, the other thing I want to bring out, and I've done this before but I wasn't going to do it until people kept talking about the scientist and all the sciences, and all the scientists -- and I know that people want to believe that.

But I remember so well, you know -- go ahead and start the clock, that's fine -- I remember so well --

(UNKNOWN)
We just want to make sure that the clock doesn't just get stopped for the Republicans and runs for us.

INHOFE:
You're -- you're...

(UNKNOWN)
Welcome former chair ...

INHOFE:
Yeah, you're a -- you are alert, I would say that to my friend.

(LAUGHTER)

INHOFE:
Anyway, I can remember when I was going to go over to -- with every year the U.N. has a big party, they invite everyone to come -- come in and, I was going to go to Copenhagen to be the one man truth squad, which I did and I went over there.

But during that time, right before I left, I asked the administrator of the EPA, the job that you're I believe going to have, Lisa Jackson, I said, I have a feeling once I leave town you're going to come up with an endangerment finding and you're going to give you justification for getting involved in this -- in this issue.

And she smiled, so I could tell it was true. And I said that when you do this, it has to be based on science. Tell me the science that you are going to use for this. And she said, with the IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Now, as luck would have it, in my luck, not theirs, right after that is when Climate-gate came, and that's when it was disclosed that the individuals, the scientists in IPCC rigged the numbers and came up with such an outrageous lie in terms of what causes global warming, all of that and I'll just read a couple of them here.

One of the physicists in the IPCC said, "Climate-gate was a fraud on a scale I've never seen before." Clive Cook with the Financial Times said, "The closedmindedness of these supposed men of science is surprising even to me, the stink of intellectual corruption is overpowering."

And the U.N. -- the U.K. Telegraph, that's one of the largest in the U.K., the publications, it said, "It's the worst scientific scandal of our generation." Now, nobody talks about that. But that's the science that they are talking about, and I really believe it's necessary to have that as a part of this record of this meeting.

Now, General Pruitt, the -- in 2012, the EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued update -- updated fuel economy standards that were the result of a compromise and that compromise was between the Obama administration, the automakers in the state of California. Right?

And the part of this deal required a review of these regulations in 2018 before -- these are their words, not mine -- before any new standards were put in place. After losing the election however, the Obama administration broke the deal by prematurely issuing new regulations.

This decision was made unexpectedly and well over a year before the EPA said that they'd make the determination. This shortened a time frame and process is concerning. So, Mr. Chairman, I do ask unanimous consent that the previous EPA timeline for the expected action on the mid-term review be included in the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

INHOFE:
And Attorney General Pruitt, as administrator, will you look into this matter to see whether this extreme action was appropriate or a hasty political decision?

PRUITT:
Senator, as you indicated, the obligation was to meet the November 2008 mid-term review -- 2018 mid-term review, and I think the study that was completed, it was finished December 30th and they issued their findings within 14 days.

That time period is something, I'm not sure that, that normally happens as far as the time, the velocity of 14 days, but it merits review and I would review that, yes.

INHOFE:
Well, the follow up question would be, would you commit to sitting down with the Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, and -- I've already talked to her about this incidentally, both of them will be confirmed, I'm convinced and you're working to address the impacts of the EPA decision on automobile manufacturers and consumers ...

PRUITT:
Yes.

INHOFE:
... and worked with her on that -- in that issue.

PRUITT:
Absolutely.

INHOFE:
All right. Very good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator. Senator Booker?

BOOKER:
Thank you very much. Thank you Mr. Pruitt. I just want to jump into one of the areas that you've said is a principle part of one of your achievements. In your opening statement, you said, that as attorney

general you confronted with an important water quality issue on the scenic Illinois River about the high phosphorous levels that were causing a range of problem that come from the manure principally farm animals.

And you go on to state that this was an historic agreement to clean up the river. It was in your opening statement and a number of the documents that you provided. You also described the agreement with Arkansas as an important agreement to reduce the pollution.

Again that was a result from poultry growers, and I'm quoting you actually directly, "That was occurring as a result of pollution from poultry growers." Are you familiar with this?

PRUITT:
Yes, also discharge from municipalities in Northwest Arkansas as well, that ...

BOOKER:
I think that's an important point, yes.

PRUITT:
Yeah.

BOOKER:
I would like to ask you just some question about this, but I think it's important. I really dug into this and did some research. Can you hold -- hold this up. I just want to go through with my colleague what the fact pattern is that lead to what -- this moment where you intervened.

And it really starts with a Supreme Court decision way back in 1992, Arkansas v. Oklahoma. I imagine you're familiar with the Supreme Court decision, that the result between those two states that held that basically up river states, such in Arkansas must comply with the water quality standards that are adopted by downriver states and then approved by the EPA.

You're familiar with that?

PRUITT:
I'm familiar with the litigation, yes.

BOOKER:
So -- so after that Supreme Court decision effective July 1, 2002, Oklahoma actually did adopt a .037 water quality standard for phosphorous and importantly they gave a decade, ten year phase in period before full compliance was required. And then in 2003, your predecessor Drew Edmondson negotiated agreement with Arkansas, which I've read called the Statement of Joint Principles and Actions.

Mr. Chair, I'd like to enter that for the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

BOOKER:
And then in 2003, to give more teeth to this -- this goes to what you were saying about municipalities, it created phosphorous limits for municipal discharges. And that 2003 agreement also that I've read through, also states that Oklahoma will reevaluate the .037 criteria for total phosphorous in Oklahoma's rivers by 2012.

And then, this is a big part in accordance with the -- with the instruction, the mandates of the Supreme Court, the EPA gave its approval to Oklahoma's .037 phosphorous standard. This was critical because under the Supreme Court decision, now Oklahoma had to -- had a water quality standard approved by the EPA that was now enforceable against up states like Arkansas.

Now, let's fast forward to April 2012. Oklahoma's Water Resources Board reviewed the best scientific information available in 2012. It reevaluated and reaffirmed the .037 phosphorous standard. Mr. Chair, I want to put in an executive summary of that review.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

BOOKER:
And then on June 30, 2012, the ten year phase in going back to the Supreme Court decision, the actions by Oklahoma, the ten year phase in period was completed in full compliance with the .037 became required. It became now what was required by -- by the states.

So just to recap all of this because it's a lot, 20 years, Oklahoma's EPA approved a .037 phosphorous standard, more than two decades in the making. It has just been reaffirmed by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and then the ten year compliance period phase in had expired.

And so when you said that you had entered into a second agreement with Arkansas that in your words, "Was a historic agreement to clean up the river, that would reduce pollution from poultry growers."

And this is the question that I have sincerely, I pulled that 2000 agreement and read it -- excuse me -- the 2013 agreement and read it and it was stunning to see that it actually didn't take any steps to reduce pollution but actually only proposes another unnecessary study and attempts to suspend compliance that was two decades in the making with the .037 standard.

It suspended compliance for yet another three years of pollution. Isn't that true that, that's what the agreement did?

PRUITT:
It isn't, Senator. There was actually no enforcement of the .037 standard taking place on Arkansas's side of the border. The reason -- you refer to the memorandum of understanding. I actually have a second statement of principles here before me, as well.

That expired in 2012, '13 time frame and that's what presented my office with the opportunity to go to Arkansas to ensure that the .037 standard would actually be enforced from a state law perspective on that side of the border.

That had never taken place in history. You mentioned the EPA. There was no enforcement authority that had taken place on that phosphorous level by the EPA. Oklahoma had it as you -- as you've indicated as a standard but it was not being enforced upstream in Arkansas and that's what the agreement addresses.

BOOKER:
Mr. Pruitt, so I don't have the seniority or the stature or the grandchildren of Senator Inhofe, so I can't go over my time. But I will say this, in my next round, I will go back into this because the documents don't seem consistent at all with what you saying and I'd like in my next round of questioning to go into a little bit deeper into this historic settlement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:
Thank you Senator Booker. I would introduce for the record an article that appeared in the Tulsa World, this past January 12, 2017, going way beyond the 20 years of that panel, but of the slide.

But 33 years, and it's by Ed Fite, who served as the agency administrator of the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission from September 1983 until June 2016, 33 years. And his statement in this op-ed that he wrote is "I have found that Pruitt has always done right by our scenic rivers.

He has, for the first time ever, he has gotten the state of Arkansas, which happens to have parts of the streams we've designated as scenic rivers, originating in and flowing through their state to agree to Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers Phosphorous Standard, an incredible environmental accomplishment, the effect of which cannot be understated." Senator Rounds?

ROUNDS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Attorney General Pruitt, in August of 2016, the EPA Inspector General found that the EPA had failed to follow through with its commitment to update its 2010 Lifecycle Analysis for corn ethanol and has also failed to perform its legally required comprehensive study on the environmental effects of the RFS, the Renewable Fuel Standard. EPA's information on ethanol's life cycle emissions is inaccurate and it's outdated.

Today's best available science shows that blending ethanol into gasoline can significantly reduce greenhouse gases. However, the EPA has failed to update its own science with most recent best science that is available and continues to rely on outdated, inaccurate science when setting national policy regulatory biofuel's policy.

What are your thoughts on the EPA relying on outdated, inaccurate science to set federal regulatory policy?

PRUITT:
Senator, I think it's the obligation of the EPA in taking steps, rulemaking and otherwise, to ensure that it has the most up-to-date, objective scientific data possible.

ROUNDS:
Let me follow up a little bit. The current EPA process for considering of the scientific information underpinning major regulations, I believe, is flawed and it's unbalanced. For example, the Scientific Advisory Board, or the SAB is to provide scientific advice to the EPA administrator and Congress.

But there is a significant lack of geographic diversity in state and local and tribal representation on the SAB. Can you explain to us what your views are on the agency science and what you envision as the role of agency science at the EPA?

PRUITT:
Senator, as you and I talked about in our meeting, I think it's important to have that geographical representation better represented, and -- and that there's some conflicts of interest application with the Science Advisory Board that need to be addressed, as well.

And also, it's the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee, which is a standing committee of the Science Advisory Board.

ROUNDS:

I've got a chart that shows the geographic makeup of the 2015 chartered SAB. Of the 54 members, the majority of them come from East or West Coast states. Can you get that chart for me, please? I've also got a chart that shows the number of states that have government representatives on the SAB.

How would you broaden the geographic scope of SAB members to make certain that states and various governmental entities are represented? The one on the left shows the black diversity with regard to the actual members on the board, and the one on the right actually shows that we have a grand total of two states with representation for state and local units of government on those boards

PRUITT:
Senator, if confirmed, it is an issue, as I've indicated, and we talked about in your office, that is important to address to ensure that there's confidence that, as science is driving rulemaking that its objective and that it's tethered to the rules that are adopted by the EPA.

So this is a very important issue that needs to be evaluated and discussed and to ensure the efficacy of the science that occurs at the EPA.

ROUNDS:
Would you commit to us that you would make it an effort to see that the Science Advisory Board actually reflects some fairness with regard to geographic diversity, as well as recognizing the important role that local and regional governments, state and local governments have in determining or at least participating in these boards and commissions?

PRUITT:
If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on that issue.

ROUNDS:
Thank you. Let me just finish real quickly with just one other item, and I -- I believe listened a lot to and I -- whether you're working on behalf of industries, whether you're working on behalf of the folks from Oklahoma, your role as an administrator with regard to clean air, water and so forth.

As the attorney general, you represented the interest of your state, both your state's economy and your state's environment. But just because you are pro-economic development and pro-economic development growth does not mean that you have to be anti-environment.

Preserving the environment and preserving the economy, I don't believe are mutually exclusive. I don't think you've got to choose between the two. How would you balance economic growth with making certain that we have clean air and clean water?

PRUITT:
I think part of it's inherent in the statutes and the process that the EPA is supposed to conduct. I know that sometimes rulemaking is seen as something that's not terribly important or -- or something laborious.

But the reason rulemaking, the reason Congress has said that you take -- you offer notice on a proposed rule and you take comment, is it's needed to make sure all voices are heard and that there is an informed decision that regulators are making before they finalize rules, because of the impact it has on the economy and on the environment in this instance.

So, rulemaking is something that we should take seriously and that we should do so consistent with the framework outlined by Congress so that all those voices are heard that you're referring to, Senator, in -- in the rulemaking process.

ROUNDS:
Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much, Senator Rounds. Senator Markey?

MARKEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, earlier today you said that the EPA has an important role in regulating carbon dioxide because of the 2007 landmark Supreme Court ruling in Massachusetts v. EPA.

The EPA administrators for both President Bush and President Obama made a decision that carbon pollution poses a danger to America, otherwise known as the Endangerment Finding. Will you promise to keep on the books the scientific finding that carbon pollution poses a danger to the American public health and welfare?

PRUITT:
Two things, Senator. First, with respect to Mass. v. the EPA, the Supreme Court said to the EPA that they had to make a decision --

MARKEY:
That's right.

PRUITT:
... to determine whether CO2 posed a risk. And, as you indicated, in 2009 they did so. That is the law of the land, those two cases. There's an obligation of the EPA administrator to do his or her job in fulfilling Mass. v. EPA in that Endangerment Finding from 2009.

MARKEY:
So you will keep that scientific finding on the books?

PRUITT:
The Endangerment Finding is there and needs to be enforced and respected.

MARKEY:
OK. And you will not review that scientific finding?

PRUITT:
There's nothing that I know that would cause a review at this point.

MARKEY:

That's very good. Massachusetts v. EPA made it possible for states like California and Massachusetts to set higher standards for the fuel economy of vehicles using their authority under the Clean Air Act. This is a powerful tool for states to reduce emissions and address global warming.

As a direct result of the Clean Air Act authority combined with my 2007 Fuel Economy Law, the Obama Administration reached an historic agreement with the auto industry's support to increase fuel economy standards to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.

Those standards are projected to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by more than 2 million barrels a day, prevent 6 billion tons of carbon pollution, and save consumers more than $1.7 trillion at the gas pump because their cars will be so much more efficient.

Those standards are also unleashing a Tesla revolution, clean energy vehicles all across the country. Ten thousand people are going to be employed, for example, in Nevada, in this technology area.

You've said that you want states to play a larger role in environmental regulation. In your 2015 testimony before the House Science Committee, you wrote quote, "The EPA was never intended to be our nation's frontline environmental regulator. The states were to have regulatory primacy."

But earlier today, you wouldn't commit to maintaining California and Massachusetts and other state's ability to be regulatory (sic) primacy as the leaders of the effort to protect their own states to do what is best for global warming in their own states.

So I'm going to ask you again. Will you support the statutory right of states to do more to reduce dependence on foreign oil, reduce global warming pollution, save money at the gas pumps, and create tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of jobs in the clean car job business?

PRUITT:

I think, Senator, generally the answer to that would be yes. But, in application with the California waiver that was discussed earlier, that's an adjudicatory process that I can't prejudge what would occur there. As you know, previous administrators have either granted or denied that based upon a record that was made.

I do respect and do believe that states have a very important role. We've acknowledged that or I've acknowledged that today with respect to the Chesapeake Bay situation, as an example. And so, I will look at that issue like others, to make sure that it's respected but also is consistent with the statutory framework that you've outlined.

MARKEY:
Do you support the law that says that California has a right to ask for a waiver?

PRUITT:
It's statutory and something the administrator has an obligation to do. So, yes, I do respect it.

MARKEY:
Do you support the current California waiver for greenhouse gas standards?

PRUITT:
Senator, that's what would be evaluated and I think it's very difficult and we shouldn't prejudge the outcome in that regard if confirmed as administrator.

MARKEY:
So, you're questioning the current waiver? You don't think they're entitled to the current waiver.

PRUITT:
Well, the waiver is something that's granted on an annual basis and the administrator would be responsible for making that decision.

MARKEY:
Yep. And so, you say you're going to review it?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

MARKEY:
Yeah. And when you say review, I hear undo, you know, the rights of the states. And I think to a certain extent that's -- it's troublesome, because obviously what we've heard all day is how much you support state's rights when it comes to these issues.

But now when it comes to the right of California or Massachusetts and other states to be able to reduce carbon pollution, you're saying you're going to review that. So, my problem really goes to this double standard that is created that when you sue from the Oklahoma perspective, from the oil and gas industry perspective and you represent Oklahoma, you say they have a right to do what they want to do in the state of Oklahoma.

But when it comes to Massachusetts or it comes to California and it comes to the question of those states wanting to increase their protection for the environment, protect their -- their victimization from carbon pollution, you say there, you're going to review.

And I think that the history of the agency in granting reviews that have been necessary for Massachusetts, for California and other states to improve the environment, are still valid. The science hasn't changed.

The new clean energy technologies have not changed. The danger to the public from environmental exposure to carbon pollution has not changed. And so from our perspective, you know, we -- we are fearful of what a review would actually result in. And from my perspective, I think it's going to lead to you undoing that --

BARRASSO:
The Senator's time has expired.

MARKEY:
-- right of the states to be able to provide that protection.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Markey. I'm going to introduce, for the record, a report from the National Energy Assistant Directors Association. These are the state officials who oversee the financial assistance programs for people to heat their homes.

The report says that when energy prices go up, the higher energy prices result in 24 percent of the recipients who go without food for at least a day, 37 percent go without medical or dental care, 34 percent didn't fill a prescription and 19 percent had someone in their home become sick because the house was cold due to increased energy costs. Senator Ernst?

ERNST:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, Attorney General Pruitt, thank you for being here today. I would like to go back to something that a colleague, Senator Duckworth, mentioned earlier today and that's the Point of Obligation.

The proposal to change the Point of Obligation under the RFS is an example of a regulatory change that would destabilize the policy environment if adopted. And, what's interesting with the Point of Obligation, we have two sides that normally oppose each other that have actually come together.

So, both biofuel producers and the American Petroleum Institute oppose this change, both groups. And I would like to submit a letter for the record showing the united opposition to moving the Point of Obligation. Mr. Chair, if we could have that entered into the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

ERNST:
And, I'd like to revisit this, if you can, yes or no, as administrator, will you

oppose changes to the Point of Obligation?

PRUITT:
Senator, as you and I indicated -- as I indicated in my meeting with you and I think in response to Senator Duckworth earlier, there's a comment period in process now at the EPA about the Point of Obligation. I think prejudging, you know, the outcome of that process at this point is unwise.

I can say to you as I said to you in the office, any steps that I would take as EPA administrator with respect to any issues as far as the RIN program, the monitoring of that program, Point of Obligation, all these various issues that we discuss, the job of the EPA administrator is to make sure that the statute is upheld and enforced and not undermined.

The vitality of the RFS program has been defined by Congress dating back to 2005. Any steps that the EPA administrator takes needs to be done in such a way to further the objectives of Congress in that statute, not undermine the objectives of Congress in that statute.

ERNST:
Well, I do appreciate you being objective and I'm sure that Senator Duckworth and I will look forward to continuing to educate you on those issues. So, thank you, very much.

I would like to show a chart of the state of Iowa and I would like to go back to some of Senator Cardin's comments about who should define what the expanded definition of Waters of the U.S. is.

So, this is a chart of the State of Iowa and, as you can see, with the expanded definition as provided by the EPA, 97 percent of the State of Iowa is now considered Waters of the U.S. So, if you were in an area like mine, Southwest Iowa here, right down here, I live in a Water of the U.S. Most of the state is covered by the Waters of the U.S.

And I bring that up because in a moment I'm going to show you another picture of the consequences of the EPA defining what a Water of the U.S. is. Last Congress, this committee examined the scope of the Federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction, EPA and the Corps of Engineers claim today, even without the new WOTUS rule.

The committee found that EPA and the Corps are already expanding their jurisdiction using the concepts that they codified in WOTUS, they are just doing it by a case-by-case basis. The jurisdictional claims that are already being made are very troubling.

For example, the Obama EPA told the public that they will not regulate puddles. They will not regulate puddles. However, we learned that the Corps is already regulating puddles by claiming that a puddle in a gravel parking lot is in quotes, "a degraded wetland, a degraded wetland", a degraded wetland.

The Obama EPA also told farmers not to worry about being regulated because ordinary farming activities have a statutory exemption. We learned that the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Justice have decided that plowing is not an ordinary farming activity. Explain that to my dear deceased grandfather and my father, who's activities in farming include plowing.

According to the Obama administration, any plowing that pushes soil into furrows is not an exempt farming activity because the tops of plowed furrows can dry out. According to a brief filed by the United States in quotes, "The furrow tops now serve as small mountain ranges."

Right there folks, "small mountain ranges." "These furrow tops now provide conditions that are not conducive to growth and development of wetland plant species. They are many uplands," end quote.

This is a picture of these small mountain ranges from the government's expert report. Mr. Pruitt, will you commit to me that if confirmed, EPA will work with the Corps and DOJ to make sure that federal agencies stop trying to regulate ordinary farming practices.

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

ERNST:
Thank you for that very concise answer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:

Thank you, Senator Ernst. Senator Duckworth?

DUCKWORTH:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, I just want to ...

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

DUCKWORTH:
I want to come back to this question again. And let me just tell you, I played second base, as well. This is, you know, this is a hanging curve ball. You can knock this out of a park with a yes, all right?

Will you commit, yes or no, to reversing the EPA's current interpretation that available infrastructure should limit the requirements to blend biofuels into our fuel supply given that it runs counter to congressional intent?

PRUITT:
I will not take any steps to undermine the objectives and the statute of the RFS as administrator, as EPA.

DUCKWORTH:
So, are you committing -- will you commit to opposing any attempts to move the Point of Obligation from the farmer, the soybean producers, the corn producers, and biofuel manufacturers, away from them and towards the blenders, because that would be counter to congressional intent?

PRUITT:
Senator, that is something as I've indicated. There is an open comment period on that very issue. And, if confirmed, I would be dealing with that issue and need to respond to the comments that have been made as part of the record.

It would be unwise to prejudge that outcome. I can say to you that any steps that I would take as administrator would be in furtherance of the RFS and not to undermine the RFS.

DUCKWORTH:
But the comment period has nothing to do with congressional intent. Earlier today, you said that you would abide by congressional intent. Now, the congressional intent is to keep that Point of Obligation with the soybean and corn producers and the biofuel manufacturers, not to move away from it regardless of what the open comment period says.

So, you're saying that you're willing -- that your answer is no, because you would be open to moving it away from the soybean and corn growers, the farmers, towards the blenders, if that's what the comment period -- if that is what comes out of the comment period? Is that what you're saying? And that would be against congressional intent, though.

PRUITT:
Senator, I think maybe we're -- with respect to congressional intent and the statute, the intent, as far as the Point of Obligation, is not addressed in the statute itself. That is a decision and the administrator has been involved in that process historically. It's been subject to much discussion. In fact, the EPA has dealt with this issue before.

What I'm saying to you is, it's the job of the administrator to enforce the program, to administer the program, to ensure that the intent of Congress as far as the RFS is upheld. I will do that.

To prejudge the outcome of that particular comment period is something that I can't do and shouldn't do at this point. I would need to respond to that only after being confirmed and going through the rest of the process.

DUCKWORTH:
So, you're saying that you would be open to moving the Point of Obligation away from the corn and soybean producers and ethanol manufacturers?

PRUITT:
I'm saying ...

DUCKWORTH:

If that is what the -- if that is what the open comment period says, if that's the result, then you would be open to moving it away from the farmers?

PRUITT:
No, I'm saying, Senator, that any actions taken as administrator that would jeopardize and endanger the RFS as intended by Congress, I would not take. That is different from prejudging an outcome in that particular matter.

DUCKWORTH:
But the intent of Congress is to keep the Point of Obligation with the producers.

PRUITT:
That's something I'm not aware of, Senator.

DUCKWORTH:
OK. Well, let's move on to -- I'm very concerned and we'll follow up with this in the future. Let's go to safe drinking water. I sit on oversight government -- I sat on Government Oversight committee in the House where, in a bipartisan manner, we explored what happened in Flint, Michigan.

And I was actually flabbergasted earlier today when, in response to my colleague, Senator Cardin, whether you believe there's any safe level of lead that children can consume. You responded by saying, and I quote, "Senator, that is not something I've reviewed or know about. I believe there's some concern but I have not looked into the scientific research on that."

You're about to become the EPA administrator. You're seeking to be the EPA administrator and you've not looked into the issue of lead in our drinking -- in our drinking water supply? I think that that is something, especially in the aftermath of Flint, is -- is a serious oversight on your part.

Have you even studied the Flint water crisis in preparing for this hearing? And do the names Mary Gade and Susan Hedman ring a bell to you?

PRUITT:
The situation in point as I indicated earlier, the EPA should've acted more expeditiously in responding to Flint and did not. There was indication at the regional level that there were concerns and there was not a response.

And I think that the EPA bears responsibility for what happened in Flint and would seek to, in the future, avoid those kind of situations by being more proactive through the regional administrators and the states and municipalities in ensuring the quality of our drinking water.

DUCKWORTH:
As EPA administrator, will you commit to appointing a permanent regional administrator to the Midwest region that will be based out of Chicago but they cover Michigan?

We have issues with lead in Galesburg, Illinois, for example. And will you give them the responsibility and the ability to act proactively so that they can step in when they see that the state is not doing its job in protecting the safe water drinking supply for its citizens?

PRUITT:
As you know, Senator, the EPA -- and the answer is yes. The EPA has emergency order authority to respond to situations like you described. And I think the EPA should step in, in those situations in a very meaningful way.

DUCKWORTH:
That's good news because they did not do it in the case of Flint. Thank you. I'm out of time, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much. I would like to introduce for the record an article from the Oklahoman by Rick Green.

And to read, it says, J.D. Strong, Director of the State Wildlife Conservation Department says of Attorney General Pruitt, quote "Attorney General Pruitt has been a really good partner and ally in making sure we have adequate protections in place for the quality and quantity of water, said Strong", who previously lead the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and was State Secretary of the Environment.

I have never seen him put us in a position where we had to compromise anything to protect the waters of Oklahoma." Senator Boozman?

BOOZMAN:
Thank, Mr. Chairman. And I want to go through -- again, obviously, Congressman in the district with the Arkansas, Oklahoma, Illinois river situation. I was elected in a special election in 2001 and inherited this. This has been going on for about ten years. In 2001, from that time on until recently we've probably worked on this, it seems like every week.

But what happened was, in 2003, the EPA came out and said that the standard was such that by 2013, the river needed to be -- have attainment of .037 standard of phosphorous. Arkansas worked very, very hard, changed out all of its treatment plants in that area. That's one of the fastest growing areas in the country.

Again, you know, the ratepayers pay for all that, hauled out chicken litter and all those kind of things, and made a dramatic improvement in the attainment. The problem was, though, Arkansas, and you mentioned again, my good friend, Senator Booker, and he is a good friend, mentioned a lot about Oklahoma, this and that. Arkansas never agreed to any of that.

So they were going forward but they felt like they could not obtain the .037 standard because the first national river is in Arkansas, the Buffalo River, and it was not at .037. And it's pristine. So, went with good faith.

In 2010 -- in 2005, I believe, the attorney general in Oklahoma sued -- sued Arkansas. That was -- and you can correct me if I'm wrong on some of these things -- but in 2010, that case was -- was, all of this stuff was put in place but the federal judges never ruled on it. So it was open.

We fast forward, 2013 is arriving. Arkansas does still not agree that the .037 standard is the appropriate one, so they were squaring off getting ready to sue each other again. And Attorney General Pruitt, Attorney General McDaniel, a Democrat in my state, got together and said, hey, you know, let's not waste a ton of money with lawyers.

Let's, you know, use science and things like this to figure this out. So they chose a neutral site, Baylor University, which has an excellent water department. They came in, did a study and then came back and said .037 is standard and right now the states are living with that.

So, it really was -- it was a tremendous effort, took a long time, and it was a very, very difficult situation. So, you know, I applaud you. I want to put in the record a letter from our former Attorney General McDaniel that again outlines this and was very, very complimentary of the Attorney General.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you. Let me just quote one of the final paragraphs, "Recent press accounts regarding these efforts unfairly mischaracterize the work that was done by General Pruitt and his team.

He was a staunch defender of sound science and good policy as appropriate tools to protect the environment of this state. I saw firsthand how General Pruitt was able to bridge political divides and manage multiple agency agendas to reach an outcome that was heralded by most credible observers as both positive and historic."

And I think, again, as somebody that was intimately involved in that, more involved than I wanted to be in things, that it really was a heroic effort by yourself and the people in Arkansas trying to resolve, you know, a difficult situation.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you. That's really all I have, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much, Senator. Senator Sullivan?

SULLIVAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and General Pruitt. I wanted to focus on -- you know, I talked earlier, a number of us talked earlier about the frustrations that the American people have with the EPA. We talked about anger. Senator Ernst talked about fear. I believe it extends to a couple of reasons underlying that.

One is the agency currently feels that it's empowered to regulate literally every nook and cranny of American life. And related to that, they seem to have very little respect for the rule of law. So, let me touch on those.

Senator Ernst talked about the WOTUS rule and the -- literally, the EPA's claimed the ability to regulate puddles. As a state with -- pre-WOTUS by the way -- 65 percent of America's wetlands in Alaska, we have very significant concerns about this.

But I wanted to actually address an earlier comment by Senator Whitehouse, where he said that there's nothing in your record that shows that you have the background to help America's fishing industry.

Well, I couldn't disagree more with Senator Whitehouse, who's a friend and colleague. My state has a fishing industry, like Rhode Island's. It's a little bigger. Sixty percent of all the sea life, that's considerably bigger. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, would you please acknowledge that for the record.

(LAUGHTER)

BARRASSO:
With no objection.

SULLIVAN:

Almost 60 percent of all seafood harvested in the United States comes from the waters of Alaska and it's considered the best, most sustainable, best managed from an environmental standpoint, fishery in the world. And you know what the number one issue, the top issue of the fishermen of Alaska is? EPA overreach.

So let me give you a specific example. This is a regulation. It's 200 pages on America's fisherman, the ultimate small businessmen and women. This actually requires -- every fisherman in Alaska, commercial fisherman, requires a discharge permit to literally hose off the deck of a ship.

Think about that. If you're gutting a fish and fish guts or pieces of a fish fall on the deck of your ship and you hose it down, fish back into the water of the oceans, you need a permit, 200 pages. This is the kind of thing where the trust between Americans and the EPA has eroded so much because of these kind of issues.

If confirmed, will you work with me and others on this committee to make sure that these kind of regulations are balancing environmental needs with jobs that are so important? You've mentioned it as a cost. Will you work with us on that and would you care to comment on a regulation like this? Fish back into the ocean requiring a permit.

Congress, by the way, has extended this twice, meaning tried to -- the implementation of this. So there's bipartisan agreement that we need to do something about this overreach. Would you care to comment on this?

PRUITT:
Senator, I think it's exemplary of a lack of priority. I mean, we have many -- like I indicated earlier, 40 percent of our country is in non-attainment under the NAAQS program. We have over 1300 circle sites in this country that need attention to move those areas into remediation and restore those areas for environmental- related issues.

And so, I think in some respects what you cite there is just missed priorities, of trying to focus on something like that as opposed to focusing on these other areas that will really improve tangibly the environmental protections for our people across the country.

SULLIVAN:
Let me talk next about the rule of law, and I'm glad you emphasized it as a priority. I believe it's really one of the principle reasons why, again, there's such a lack of trust between the American people and the EPA. But, it's not just a Republican issue.

As a matter of fact, there's a number of examples where this is viewed as a bipartisan issue that we need to address. You may have seen with regard to the Clean Power Plan, Laurence Tribe, not known as a strong staunch Republican, Harvard Law professor, stated, "The EPA is attempting to exercise lawmaking that belongs to the Congress and judicial power that belongs to the federal courts.

EPA is attempting an unconstitutional trifecta, usurping the prerogatives of the states, Congress and the federal courts all at once with its Clean Power Plan." Then he stated, "Burning the constitution should not become part of our National Energy Policy."

You've been involved in some of these cases, the Clean Power Plan, the Waters of the U.S. In both of these cases, courts have stayed the EPA's rule. Why do you think that the courts have done that and do you think the rule of law, that has been ignored by the EPA, is something that you need to -- that you if -- if confirmed, that you will work on to regain the trust between the EPA and the American people.

PRUITT:
You know, as I indicated, Senator, earlier, I think at times, perhaps those in law and the courts, they look at rule of law as something that's academic and technical. But it's real, and it affects people in very real ways.

When you have agencies of any type that act inconsistent with the statutory authority given to them by Congress. It creates the kind of uncertainty that you're talking about. People don't know what's expected of them and paralysis happens.

And, so, rule of law is important to economic development. It's important to send messages of certainty. It's important so that people can plan and allocate resources. There are many laws that people look at and say, well, I don't really like that.

But, so long as they know it's expected of them, they can plan and allocate resources to comply. And I think that's what's important about rule of law.

SULLIVAN:
And as -- and as one of the lead litigators on the WOTUS rule and the Clean Power Plan and the fact that the Supreme Court and the Sixth Circuit had put stays on those rules, what do you think that indicates the Court's view is of those two rules issued by the EPA, at this moment?

PRUITT:
Well, it's unprecedented for the Supreme Court to have done what they did in the Clean Power Plan.

SULLIVAN:
Never happened in the history.

PRUITT:
Never happened in the history of jurisprudence before the U.S. Supreme Court. That says a lot.

SULLIVAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much. Senator Moran?

MORAN:
Mr. Chairman, I'd yield to somebody ahead of me if I can have -- if they'd yield back to me for the next question.

BARRASSO:

That would -- that would be fine. I have some time that I haven't gotten to yet, in this second round and we will go shortly to a third round. I wanted to talk a little about the Mercury Rule that the Supreme Court overturned. They overturned the EPA's Mercury Rule, finding that the EPA did not appropriately consider the costs of the rule.

Noting that by -- between the time that the rule was issued and the Supreme Court decision three years past, the EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy, was on a television show a couple of days before the Supreme Court made its ruling. And they said, "Well, what if the Supreme Court says you were wrong?"

And, essentially, she said, "Well, the majority of the power plants have already decided and invested in a path ..." -- because it's been three years -- "... to achieve compliance with the Mercury Air Toxic Standards.

In other words, she had already gotten her result even though what she had done was found by the courts to be illegal. So, I'd ask your thoughts on her statement and do you believe that her statement shows respect for the rule of law?

PRUITT:
Well, Senator, this is speculation to a certain degree and one of my favorite philosophers is Yogi Berra and he says that predictions are pretty tough, particularly about the future.

And so I don't want to be too speculative here, but when you look at the response of the Supreme Court and the Clean Power Plan, I think largely the reason they acted in an unprecedented way is because of what you just addressed, Mr. Chairman, that in response to the Michigan v. EPA case, there was some comments made that they had achieved the outcome, despite the fact that it acted inconsistent with the framework under the law.

So, I think rule of law is something, as I indicated to Senator Sullivan, is not something that we -- that's academic. I think it's meaningful. It inspires confidence in those that are regulated.

It gives them assurance that regulators are acting consistent with their authority and allows them to plan and allocate resources to meet the standards and meet the objectives that Congress and regulators establish.

BARRASSO:
Senator Moran?

MORAN:
Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. General, you can see by where I sit on the dais that I haven't been in the Senate a terribly long time, but one of my causes upon my arrival and discovery of how the Senate works is to try to work with my colleagues to reassert congressional authority.

And, in my view, there's a number of ways we can do that. One, Congress could quit passing huge pieces of legislation and delegating authorities to agencies and departments. Another one that we could pursue, and I hope we will this year, is an appropriations process, by which we have the opportunity to influence decisions made at the Environmental Protection Agency and every other agency and department.

And one of the things -- and we do that by developing a relationship with an agency head, knowing that -- and I guess part of that is that members of Congress need to become greater -- have greater levels of expertise on the subject matter of their jurisdiction.

One of the subcommittees I chair is in the Commerce Committee, and it has jurisdiction over the National Highway Safety -- Traffic Safety Administration. The Environmental Protection Agency, just last week, finalized its greenhouse gas standards for light duty cars and trucks for 2022 to '25.

Now, the law says that it's to coordinate that effort with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and that agency is still developing its own process to determine appropriate fuel standards.

I raise this as an example of where, once again, two agencies instructed by Congress to work together to find a solution or the right answer to an issue, ignored the law. I assume you would assure me or members of this committee that the Environmental Protection Agency, to the best of your ability, will obey the law.

But I also assume that you are willing to assure me that when directed by the law to cooperate with other agencies to have the input of an agency that our subcommittee has jurisdiction over, as a person in the Senate responsible for these issues, I go to the agency that I have the most influence over and they say, well, the EPA has already done its thing.

I assume we can bring those kind of practices to an end?

PRUITT:
Absolutely, Senator. I think that interagency discussion, that collaboration to ensure that there is meaningful discussion, review of action takes place. I want to speak generally to your delegation reference, because I do think that that is a very important issue that you raise.

I think a lot of times what has happened is that Congress has spoken in very general ways --, I'll not say vague but approaching vagueness, and giving carte blanche or substantial authority to agencies without providing the kind of framework that's necessary for them to make their decision. From a separation of powers issue, it think that's very important.

I think it's very important for Congress, Article 1, to exercise its authority to give the direction to these agencies how they should conduct their business. Senator Cardin in his comments and questions earlier about the waters of the United States rule, I think that is a problem presently, largely because the definition of waters of the United States in the statute is so big and so general, it creates uncertainty.

And so I think making sure that Congress performs its role and the executive branch performs its role in enforcing laws and we try to do less delegation and respect separate of powers is very, very important.

MORAN:
I appreciate your reassurance of how you would conduct, if confirmed, the agency. It also is a reflection upon the need for Congress to do its job better and perhaps, I guessed you'd have nothing to do with that.

But for me and my colleagues, we need to be much more precise and clear in legislation and much more likely to deal in smaller bit sized pieces so that the -- too often I think Congress is interested -- I don't want to be derogatory to any -- any of my colleagues.

But too often we look for the headline that we've solved a problem and yet we've -- we complain about what an agency's decisions are and we've given them so much authority, they have the ability to make, what I would consider, and some of us may consider a bad decision.

PRUITT:
And there are important steps that have been taken. We've mentioned TASKA this morning, where you had done just that during this past year. And so I think that, that's a very important item that you raise, Senator.

MORAN:
Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very, Senator Moran. We'll now move to a third round of questions and Attorney General Pruitt, you've just mentioned TASKA. You sent a letter to this committee in April 2015 supporting the Frank Lautenberg's Chemical Safety Act.

In fact the timing of your letter was less than a month after the bill was introduced, and you were the first attorney general in the United States to support the bill. The bill ultimately received overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress.

It will be your job to implement the bipartisan reforms and ensure we have consistent regulation throughout the country. Would you discuss the plans that you might have to implement this legislation and will you commit to implementing the legislation in a timely matter?

PRUITT:
Senator and Mr. Chairman, yes, I think in response to obligations of the EPA, this body has put timelines before the EPA to carry out certain rulemaking, the Prioritization Rule, the Risk Evaluation Rule, fees that need to be established, all those are mid- term in 2017.

And I think the matter of the EPA administrator should -- making that a priority at the agency. I also think that in response to Senator Gillibrand earlier and others have raised this, too, there are certain (inaudible) that need to be addressed in evaluating that listing under TSCA or perhaps the Safe Drinking Water Act as well.

And so I think there's specific actions that need to be taken but also the rulemaking process and the deadlines being adhered to.

BARRASSO:
The -- you made reference to -- and I did in my opening statements, as well, to Flint and there was some give and take on Flint a little earlier. The other thing I brought up was the Gold King Mine spill in Colorado, an environmental disaster caused by the EPA.

Last Friday, the EPA announced that it has denied all claims for the $1.2 billion in lost income, loss of use of property and damages to the businesses and the property suffered by 73 tribes, by land owners, local businesses, local governments as a result of the spill.

The EPA's excuse was its legal interpretation of the Federal Tort Claims Act. According to the EPA, if a federal agency hurts someone through a discretionary action, then the Federal Tort Claims Act does not apply.

Now this doesn't even sound right to me. So if confirmed, will you commit that you'll review that decision and use whatever authority is available to you under the law to help the people that have been harmed by the EPAs negligence.

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Senator Carper?

CARPER:

Thanks very much. A question. Mr. Chairman, I know you did not use when you -- have you -- when you started this round of the question, you did not use like 2 minutes and 30 seconds of your time. And when you -- when you comment like you've just commented, are you drawing down on that 2 minutes and 20 seconds?

BARRASSO:
I think I just -- yes, that was -- that was -- I now in the third round of questioning. Yes, sir.

CARPER:
All right.

BARRASSO:
And then I would reflect the fact that looking back at EPA nomination hearing processes, when Gina McCarthy was nominated and came to this committee, Chairman Barbara Boxer, two rounds, first round five minutes, second round two minutes. We're now in the third round of five minutes.

So I think that the Chairman has tried to listen to our -- in for our discussions and with other members to make sure that all the Democrats and every member had a chance to ask as many questions...

CARDIN:
Thank you for that clarification.

BARRASSO:
... as they had.

CARDIN:
Thank you. I want to go back to something that was said by one of our colleagues with respect to EPA and actually visiting states and participating in meetings in those states, with respect to the combined power plan.

And I think it was said that it wasn't West Virginia, my native state, native state of my friend from West Virginia was, that was not visited. We've heard since then from Joe Goffman, who is the counsel to Janet McCain. Janet is the EPA assistant administrator for air, as you may know, that he said he personally participated in meetings.

On a Clean Power Plan in West Virginia also in Kentucky, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Wyoming, North Dakota, Colorado, Illinois, and I think Nebraska. I wrote a letter to Gina McCarthy on January 11.

You may recall, Mr. Pruitt, I wrote a letter to you, I think on December 28 and posed a series of questions to you and asked for your responses by January 9, and I have yet to receive those -- those responses. And I wrote a letter to her on January 11, to again to Gina McCarthy and to Assistant Secretary Darcy of the -- the Department of the Army.

And I -- I wrote because we're getting our hearing in -- on our office a whole list of -- of ascertains about the waters of the U.S. And I think this is maybe an instructive forum for all of us. Here's the things that we were hearing and all these people just calling in -- in Delaware and led us to ask these questions.

One of the questions was, are the EPA and the Corps currently implementing new Clean Water Rule? And the ascertain was that indeed that's been happening. So we ask, is that really the case. And two days later, two days later we received a response, "No, the agencies are not now implementing the new Clean Water Rule.

Implementation of the new rule was temporary stayed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. And September 2015, the agencies immediately directed their field offices to stop using the new rule and instead resume implementing regulations in interpreting the guidance prior to the new rule. That was one of the questions we asked.

We also asked, because we're hearing ascertains otherwise by the EPA and Corps currently pursing enforcement actions pursuant to the new Clean Water Rule. And we got on the same date, January 13 this response, they said, "No, the agencies are not pursuing any enforcement actions pursuant to the new Clean Water Rule, and will not enforce this rule unless and until the Sixth Circuit Court Appeals stays is lifted.

The next question we asked because we're hearing ascertains otherwise, does anything in the Clean Water Rule revoke or otherwise modify the Clean Water Act's statutory and regulatory exceptions for farming and ranching. Response, two days later, January 13, was, "No, the Clean Water Rule makes absolutely no changes to normal farming, ranching and forestry exemptions established under the Clean Water Act in implementing regulations.

So, question number four. Some have claimed that landowners will no longer be able to rely on the Clean Water Act statutory and regulatory exemptions for farming and ranching should the Clean Water Rule go into effect because while the statute and regulations remain unchanged, the agency has narrowed the -- those exemptions in practice through the actions in the field.

Is that true? And the answer is surprisingly, "The ascertain of the agencies have narrowed application of the statutory and regulatory exemptions for farming, ranching and forestry is untrue.

The agencies have taken no steps intended to reduce the scope of the exemptions and we have not observed changes by field offices in the way they interpret or implement these exceptions. In fact, the Corps has reemphasized publicly that these exemptions are self- implementing.

Farmers, ranchers and foresters are not required to get approval from the agency prior to using the exemptions." I raise this because sometimes what people assert to be true, sometimes it's over the Internet, sometimes it's on television, sometimes it's in -- on the radio, newspapers. Ascertains are made and in this case there's a whole long list of ascertains that are made, none of them are true.

They are distortions, untrue is about what the EPA is doing with respect to a regulation that was stayed. And I would ask to, for the record, Mr. Chairman to be able to submit for the record the questions that we posed to EPA on January 11 and also the responses that we have received.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

CARPER:

Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator Inhofe?

CARPER:
I'm not through.

BARRASSO:
Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you and go right ahead.

CARPER:
I was thanking you for entering it for record.

BARRASSO:
You have 20 -- let's go back for the 23 seconds remaining.

CARPER:
Oh, thanks. I'd like to look at a chart, if you don't mind. This is a report -- this is a report card. Can you raise it up? Yeah, thank you. This is a report card that lists 17 counties. How many counties do you have in Oklahoma?

PRUITT:
Seven --

CARPER:
Seventy-seven.

(LAUGHTER)

PRUITT:
Mr. Chairman, can I refer to Senator Inhofe on these questions?

BARRASSO:

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CARPER:
I was watching -- his lips are apparently moving when you speak, so.

(UNKNOWN)
It's right here.

CARPER:
All right, thank you. At the same time you've been suing EPA on its ozone standards, all the counties in Oklahoma, for its data is collecting earned an F from the American Lung Association for not meeting ozone health standard.

You have 60 counties that they will have, the American Lung Association doesn't have data on progress made or not made with respect to ozone. These are the ones we have information on, 17 -- one, 17 counties from Madeira to Tulsa. You live in Tulsa, I suspect, you're in Tulsa county?

PRUITT:
Yes, sir.

CARPER:
Yeah, they all got Fs. They got Fs. This is last year, 2016. My question to you is, what did you do about it? What did you do about before or since?

PRUITT:
Senator, two things, one --

CARPER:
Sometimes people will believe what we say. They want to -- they may not believe what we say, but they'll believe what we do. What have you done about this?

PRUITT:
Yes, so Senator, two things. I really believe there needs to be a tremendous effort made by counties across this country to move non-attainment into attainment. Over 40 percent of the country -- or presently, 40 percent of the country approximately is in non-attainment and there needs to be great prioritization with the EPA and local officials in achieving attainment. Secondly, the EPA ...

CARPER:
But that wasn't my question. My question, Mr. Pruitt, was, what did you do about that. You've got 17 counties in which they have the data from last year. What did you do about it, before or since. That's what I'm asking you.

PRUITT:
As I've indicated, you know, as indicated in our meeting, individually, the primary enforcement responsibility in Oklahoma with respect to air quality permits and the rest is the Department of Environmental Quality.

And there have been actions taken by DEQ and they continually work with those counties to reach attainment. And we provide general counsel advise to that agency in the performance of their role.

CARPER:
I'm -- I'm not the attorney general of Delaware and I have no intention to be but if 17 of our states -- 17 of our counties in Delaware -- we only have three, but if 17 of them or if all three of them got F's, I probably -- I would do something about it. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator Inhofe?

INHOFE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congress recently passed a bipartisan bill, many of us up here supported it. I know I did. As part of the Water Infrastructure Bill to allow states to lead implementation and enforcement of EPA's coal ash rule through the state-based permit program.

That rule is already in effect and it's important that the EPA move quickly on this. If you are confirmed, are you get right on this thing?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator Inhofe.

INHOFE:
All right. Sue and settle, we all know what that is. We know that the groups, maybe some of the environmentalist, extremist groups will file lawsuits and against the EPA. The EPA, instead of defending against the lawsuits will enter into a -- a resolution behind closed doors without any public input or participation.

These settlements result in new sets of legally binding priorities and duties for the EPA that achieve the demands of special interest. Can you share your thoughts on sue and settle?

PRUITT:
Senator, this issue came up earlier, and it's a concern because it's regulation through litigation and any time that you -- there's a place for consent decrees in our litigation system.

But to use a consent decree to bypass Congress, bypass the regulatory requirements being placed upon those agencies to engage in rulemaking though litigation is something I think should not occur.

INHOFE:
And that's the part that did not come up earlier, and I appreciate that very much. And then lastly, the cost of regulations. As you know, the Supreme Court overturned EPA's mercury and air toxicities that met the rule in 2015 because the EPA failed to ignore the fact that the cost was $9.6 billion annually of the rule.

Now in fact, the EPA's regularly issued rules over the past eight years that are very costly for our industries and our job creators. According to the CRS -- now the CRS, when they make an evaluation are much more conservative. They figure it's always a very conservative figure.

But they said, the Clean Power Plan, it would be at least $5 billion to $8 billion a year. The figures I've heard on that are far greater because it wouldn't be that much difference than the old systems that they tried to do through legislation.

The methane standards on oil and gas facilities, $350 million a year. The new ozone standards, $1.4 billion. The 2015 coal ash standards, $587 million a year. And the 2011 sulfur dioxide standards, $1.5 billion a year.

Now when you hear this, all this money's being spent for compliance costs by our job creators, people out there are working for a living and they're hiring people. What are thoughts and what do you believe should be role of the cost of EPA's decision making?

PRUITT:
I think it's very important in the rulemaking process, Senator. And the Supreme Court and courts have recognized that very important factor. I mentioned earlier the case that we were involved in Oklahoma involving the Regional Haze Program.

That was an example where Oklahoma actually complied and met and satisfied the requirements under the -- under the statute and the rule but their steps that were taken were displaced by the EPA, adding hundreds of millions of cost -- dollars of cost to consumers in the generation of electricity.

And so, cost are very important and we need to make sure that -- that they're considered in certain areas of the statute, as I indicated earlier, they can't be under Title 1, the Next program. But -- but -- but in that case, that you're referring to is an obligation of the EPA to actually engage in a cost benefit analysis and make a record before it made its decision.

INHOFE:
Do you think that the laws that are on the books right now adequately

handle this situation?

PRUITT:
I do think -- I do largely, Senator. I think it's mostly an application issue that the agency and the regulator doing its job under the statute as provided by Congress.

INHOFE:
Mm-hmm. Thank you very much.

BARRASSO:
Senator Whitehouse.

WHITEHOUSE:
And presumably Mr. Pruitt, it goes without saying that if the EPA's going to consider cost to the industry of conforming to pollution guidelines, it should also consider benefits to the public from cleaner air, cleaner water and the results of that compliance, right?

PRUITT:
It should. It should, Senator.

WHITEHOUSE:
So we have been talking about fund raising done by you for the Rule of Law Defense Fund during the time when you were both a board member and for a full year, the chairman of the rule of law defense fund and the fact that we have exactly zero information in this committee about that fund raising.

We also have zero -- and let me ask unanimous consent for the page from ...

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

WHITEHOUSE:

... your filing that discloses that he was in fact a member of the board of directors and chairman of the Rule of Law Defense Fund. We also have a meeting agenda from the Republican Attorney Generals Association during a time that you were an executive committee member of the Attorney Generals Association meeting at the Greenbrier, which I will stipulate for my friend from West Virginia, is a lovely place to go.

And the agenda which I'd like to take this page of and put into the record, mentions a private meeting with Murray Energy. It mentions a private meeting with Southern Company. It mentions a private meeting with the American Fuel Petrochemical Manufacturers.

If you'll show the graphic, these are all the same groups that I've been asking about in terms of your fund raising for the Rule of Law Defense Fund, and you know, there's Murray Energy, and there's Southern Company, and I'm sure the American Fuel Petrochemical Manufacturers represent a lot of the others.

As I understand it, we know nothing, no minutes, no statements, no reports about what took place in those meetings that are described as private meetings on a sheet that is stamped, confidential. Correct? We know nothing about the content of those meetings, so ...

PRUITT:
Senator, I didn't generate the document. I know nothing about the -- how that document got generated or what ...

WHITEHOUSE:
Are you denying that those private meetings took place?

PRUITT:
No, Senator. I just didn't generate the document. And don't know about the content of them, which you've represented.

WHITEHOUSE:
OK, and we don't know and because you were on the executive committee of RAGA, that's information that we could get. Right? I mean, it's available if there were minutes or reports out of those meetings, notes taken, but we don't have them. Correct?

PRUITT:
Senator, that would be a request made to the Republican Attorney General Association. I might add, the Republican Attorney General Association, there's a Democrat Attorney General Association, as well.

WHITEHOUSE:
I'm -- I'm not faulting that...

PRUITT:
And they have the same kind of thing ...

WHITEHOUSE:
I'm talking about private meetings that ...

PRUITT:
So these meetings -- these meetings take place all of the time ...

WHITEHOUSE:
... at a time that you were on the executive committee with some of the really, really big polluters with whom you've been very closely politically associated.

PRUITT:
There's a -- there's a conference, I may Senator of Westerns Attorney General ...

WHITEHOUSE:
I know.

PRUITT:
... that goes by the National Association ...

WHITEHOUSE:
They talk about water. Drives that's what they ...

PRUITT:
And there are meetings that take place at each of those events, as well.

WHITEHOUSE:
The rest of the attorney generals avoid that, so we don't want to talk about water. Let's talk about FOIA. You've had a conversation with the Chairman about FOIA. As I understand it, there is a FOIA request to the Oklahoma Attorney General's office, to your office for emails between your office and Devan Energy and Koch Industries and Americans for Prosperity, the Koch front group and Murray Energy and the American Petroleum Institute.

And the information that I have is, is that, that opened records act request was filed more than 740 days ago, more than two years ago, that in response to it, your office has conceded that there are 3,000 responsive documents, 3,000 emails and other documents between your office and these companies.

And that in 740 days exactly zero of those documents have been produced. Is that acceptable turnaround on a FOIA request? And should we not be concerned that your office is not complying with the FOIA request that relates to specifically to so many of these companies that are going to be before you as EPA administrator if you're confirmed?

PRUITT:
Senator, we actually have -- I actually have a general counsel and an administrator in my office that are dedicated to performing or providing responses to open records request ...

WHITEHOUSE:
Not very dedicated. If it takes 740 days, and it's still zero.

PRUITT:
And -- I'm not -- I'm not involved in that process. That is handled independently by that administrator and that general counsel in responding. So I can't speak to the timeline and why it's taken that length of time.

But I can tell you that our office works -- we actually go across the state of Oklahoma through -- in training with officials locally in compliance with FOIA and open records law, so ...

(CROSSTALK)

WHITEHOUSE:
Well, maybe you ought to send your people to your own training because it doesn't seem to be sticking very well.

PRUITT:
I'm not sure what the -- the representation you made about the timeline, I'm not -- I don't know and that ...

WHITEHOUSE:
Given how many of these groups have important financial interests before the EPA, do you not think that 3,000 emails back and forth between you and your office and them are relevant to potential conflict of interest as an administrator and should be before us as we consider this?

PRUIT:
Again, I think the EPA of this counsel has laid a very clear process with respect to covered entities, as we described it earlier and on particular matters and specific cases, I will follow the advice of that EPA career person ethics to make sure that there are...

WHITEHOUSE:
You keep saying that and ...

BARRASSO:
The Senator's time has expired.

WHITEHOUSE:
Want me to finish my sentence?

BARRASSO:
Please do.

WHITEHOUSE:
The problem with that is that if you haven't disclosed any of this information, then the EP ethics counsel would have no idea to even look. They would have no idea what the risks are. You can't say, nobody can look at whether I did this, but by the way, they're going to look at it. It just doesn't add up. Sorry, about the -- going over my time.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Thank you Senator. I would like to point out, we had a report card that was just brought up and I'd like to introduce for the record a letter to -- from each of the five members of Congress from the state of Oklahoma with their steadfast report for Scott Pruitt, in saying, "We are proud of his service to our state and are very confident that he will do a superb job serving our nation and our citizens in this new role."

Also as follow up for the first round of questions, there was some dispute about a lawsuit against Mahard Egg Farm and who it was filed by. I have here the complaint in the case and it was filed May 18, 2011. Can you read it?

It says, "And the state of Oklahoma, by and through Attorney General Scott Pruitt." So you are the one that filed the suit along with the attorney general of Texas against Mahard Egg Farm and this will be submitted for the record as well. Senator Capito?

CAPITO:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the Ranking Member mentioned that Mr. Joe Goffman had visited, I called to the attention in beseeching you that when you're successfully the administrator at the EPA that you will listen to everybody and come to states that are most directly affected.

He mentioned that the associated assistant administrator had made the long list that he had said. But I would like to point out clarification. The EPA announced on September 30, a day I'll remember because that's the birthday of my youngest child, and they announced where they were going for their listening sessions.

They went to Boston. They went to New York City. They went to Philadelphia. They went to Atlanta. They went to Denver. They went to Lenexa, Kansas, and I wish our Kansas Senator was here, which I've looked up as a part of the Kansas City metropolitan area. They went to San Francisco. They went to Washington D.C. They went to Dallas and they went to Seattle, they went to Chicago.

Why states in the last five years has lost 10,000 jobs, not wholly because of this but some of this has -- plays a large part. And so I'll go back to my original request that the people that are affected by this environmentally and health wise are just as -- are just as important as the people who stand to lose their jobs over this.

Who then are plunged into poverty. Who then have a hopelessness around and in their communities. Who then become addicted to drugs and other opioids? I mean, it's just a cascading issues. Their lives are just as important. So that's my -- that's my plea on that.

Now, last question from me.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman, could I ask unanimous consent request. If I -- sorry for interrupting. But the docket with respect to the outreach that the EPA did in conjunction with the Clean Power Plan, shows from October -- I think October 16, 2014, something like this ...

CAPITO:
I was there through the listening sessions.

CARPER:
The docket requires nearly 1,000 meetings, calls, presentations, conferences, consultations, 1,000 in other outreach with stakeholders. The docket shows this post-proposal interactions concluded more than 300 meetings with state and local stakeholders who had 30 discussions with products.

Four hundred and fifty meetings with industry stakeholders, 150 discussions with environmental -- environmental justice and scientific stakeholders, dozens of more discussions with conveners and this goes on and on and on.

The -- in total the agency received almost 4.3 million comments about all aspects of the propose rule, more than any rule in EPA history, and thousands of people participated in the agency's public hearings, Webinars, listening sessions and so forth, all across the country. The agency made many revisions in the final rule and in response to those comments. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator, then I'd ask that the -- once a questioner starts, they be allowed to continue because we could get into a lengthy discussion. The EPA was found guilty of covert propaganda for soliciting information through a number of environmental groups.

It was a -- continues to be a blot on the record of the EPA and a question of this -- the entire Administration and their approach toward abilities of the -- for the rule of law versus and EPA out of control. So, we're going to allow the questioner to continue. And I revert back to you, Senator Capito.

CAPITO:
Thank you, not to beat a dead horse, but to try, I'll say that the Assistant Administrator McKay, when she was telling me that the only one to go where places were comfortable, she looked at me and said, "Senator, we're going into Pittsburgh."

Gee, thanks a lot. In any event, which is not in West Virginia, I'll make that point, my question is, you've said a lot about states, and I agree. The states should have the primacy, it's in the law, and that's something that part of why you brought suit, and part of the reason you've been successful with other Attorney's General.

Let me ask you a question, let's say you have a state where you're the administrator of the EPA, and you deem that that state's Office of Environmental Quality or DEP, which is what it is in West Virginia, just doesn't measure up. They're not protecting their people's health. They're not enforcing the law.

They are, in your judgment, and folks that you're working with, are not up to the task, and are letting their people down. What avenues of correction would you have at the EPA, do you have, and what would you exercise in that kind of category? And what kind of judgments would have to be made for those things to occur?

PRUITT:
Senator, I really appreciate the question. Because, I think there are times where states are (inaudible). You know, that they don't perform the obligations that they have, let's say, under the Clean Air Act in adopting state implementation plan. Or as they adopt the state implementation plan, they don't take into consideration all the factors that Congress have put in the statute and the EPA requires.

In those instances, it's very appropriate for the EPA to use its authority, like a federal implementation plan, to take over that jurisdiction, and to insure that the safety and health of our citizen's is protected, and air quality is maintained and water quality is maintained. So, there is a time and place for that.

I think in many instance, however, the last several years, it's been the first response, as opposed to, you know, cooperation and a federal implementation plan is absolutely in order at times. BARRASSO: Senator Merkley. MERKLEY: Mr. Chairman, before you start my clock, I'd like to follow- up on Senator Inhofe's strategy here of submitting certain facts back for the record. And I'd ask unanimous consent to submit for the record, an article from the Union of Concerned Scientists related to the so-called Climate Gate. That the Senator referred to earlier.

And that notes that the manufactured controversy over emails stolen from the University has generated a lot of heat, but not light. Email content being quoted, does not indicate climate data research has been compromised.

Most importantly, nothing in the content of these stolen emails has any impact on our overall understanding of human activities driving dangerous levels of global warming. Media reports and contrary claims that they do are inaccurate. So I submit that --

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

MERKLEY:
-- for the record. Thank you. I'd also like --

BARRASSO:
This Chairman, since my name is involved, let me respond. Were you listening when I talked about the various publications that have come out, and talked about how fraudulent it was, these are publications, science publications, have gone in, made their own evaluations, and for the U.K. Telegraph to say it's the worst scientific scandal for our generation, then that's pretty extreme?

MERKLEY:
My colleague, we could have an entire day dedicated to the review of the scientific literature on this, and I -- it would weigh very heavily on the scales in the direction I've indicated, in support of the information presented by the Union of Concerned Scientists. We may just have to agree to disagree. That's why I submitted it for the record. We'll let the public decide.

(UNKNOWN)
That's why the statement is repeated over and over again about the science is settled, is not an accurate statement.

BARRASSO:
I'd invite the Senator to question the witness.

MERKLEY:
The beauty of the Senate, is we get to have our own opinions. Meanwhile, I'd also like to submit for the record in response to when I was speaking about asthma, Mr. Chairman, you noted a study from the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

And it's important to note that that organization has been funded by the American Petroleum Institute by a Koch Brothers front group, and by Exxon. And that there is a series of responses that invoke the opposite side of that and the NAACP, which certainly speaks for a broad swathe of African Americans, takes a very, very different stance, and it has endorsed the Clean --

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

MERKLEY:
Thank you. I'd also like to submit for the record, two articles -- or two statements from the National Congress of American Indians, and from Latino organizations -- a whole group of Latino Organizations, that are very concerned about this nomination.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

MERKLEY:
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And then I'd like to turn to a question that has puzzled me over time, and it's in the context of how one evaluates how one views the world.

And I heard one of my colleagues once present it this way, if you go to a doctor and they say you have cancer, you decided you better get a second opinion, and then you go to 100 doctors and 97 of them say you have cancer and you better act, most people feel like, hmmm, 97 doctors told me I should act.

Three told me I should go take some healthcare supplement. Maybe I better have the operation. And that's really the place where we are in climate science now, where the overwhelming weight of the scientific community weighs in and says, "Yes, it's very logical." You can do it in a laboratory, as Senator Whitehouse noted, that carbon dioxide traps heat.

You can do it in a laboratory that methane traps heat. You can track the change in the environment of the concentration of those gasses. You can see the impact on the ground now. My home state you have an impact on the oysters because the Pacific Ocean is 30 percent more acidic than it was before we started burning coal.

That is a scary thing when shellfish have trouble forming shells. It has an economic impact. Our pine beetles are thriving because the winter's not cold enough to kill them, and so it's having a huge impact on our forest. That's an economic impact on rural America. The southern part of my state has had three worst ever droughts in the last 15 years.

It is a huge impact on agriculture community. The streams in Oregon coming from the snow packs, have been declining in size and raising in temperature -- very bad for trout, very bad for salmon -- that's an impact on our fishing community.

So the global warming that is taking place and being driven by the burning of fossil fuels is having a huge economic impact on the citizens of my state. My rural citizens. My citizens who depend on timber, who depend on fishing, who depend on farming. Should the citizens seek to address this problem? Because we're just on the front end of this happening.

Ten years ago we were talking about models that led to the conversation Senator Inhofe had about Climate Gate, about pressing with assumptions and models, we don't need models now. We have facts on the ground. The moose are dying because the ticks aren't being killed by the winter being cold enough.

The fish are migrating on the Atlantic coast and Maine's losing its lobsters to Canada. These facts on the ground are extraordinarily real, they have a huge economic impact. And shouldn't we take a very serious approach to the urgency of this problem as we see it descending upon us?

PRUITT:
Senator, I think the EPA, and if confirmed as the Administrator, there's currently and obligation to deal with the issue. The Massachusetts VEPA case says that CO2 is a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, and as such, that's what generated the 2009 Endangerment Finding.

So, I think there is a legal obligation presently for the EPA Administrator to respond to the CO2 issue through proper regulations.

MERKLEY:
I believe you're acknowledging that, which I'm glad to hear, that it is a serious problem and that the EPA, that carbon dioxide is a pollutant, and we have a legal obligation to take it on.

PRUITT:
I think Massachusetts VEPA say that, counter-balanced by the UR decision that came out a few years later, that you can't transform a statute as the EPA sought to do with the PSD program. So, I think the court has spoken emphatically about this issue, and the EPA has a legal obligation to respond.

MERKLEY:
And as you kind of rank the urgency with which you bring to this, do you see it as something you wake up every day -- the next generation will weigh whether or not we acted promptly, or is it more, I have a legal obligation because of this court decision, so I'll have to have some folks pay some attention to it?

PRUITT:
I think the importance, Senator, it's very difficult to prioritize, you know, Senator Jill LeBryan's (ph) not here, but when she talked to me about (inaudible) and the threat that she's facing in New York, is that any less important than the CO2 issue?

It's not. And so, the EPA deals with very weighty issues, as you know, water and air quality, it's a matter of prioritizing the resources to achieve better outcomes in each, and I think it's very important to do so as an Administrator.

MERKLEY:

I do feel like perhaps you don't understand the gravity of the situation, from your response. Because there are feedback mechanisms that are starting to occur with the open blue water, and the Arctic feedback from methane bubbling up from the permafrost bubbling up from the peat bogs.

Bubbling up from what was previously frozen methane on the bottom of the ocean that has incredibly accelerating impact on global warming. Our rate of carbon dioxide pollution is not decreasing globally, it has doubled in rate from one part per million per year, to two parts per million per year.

So, we are on an accelerating curve as a human civilization. If human civilization doesn't get it together very quickly, we are in very deep trouble, and I would hope that at some point, perhaps the urgency of the situation would be something you'll grab a hold of. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator Rounds?

ROUNDS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Attorney General Pruitt, last year at an oversight hearing, we heard reports of the EPA regional offices who were sending companies information collection requests, or ICRs. Pursuant to Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, regarding their operations with no explanation as to the reasons for the ICRs.

These ICRs, which companies are legally obligated to respond to can cost the companies millions of dollars to collect the information to respond to the requests. They often hear no follow-up from the EPA regarding whether their response was adequate, or what the information would be used for.

Last year I requested from the EPA, a record of the ICRs that had been sent to U.S. companies throughout the various regions. I was told by the EPA staff, that there was no way to get this information because they didn't have it.

Second, in 2015, I wrote a letter to the EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, requesting the economic information that forms the basis of the Clean Power Plan and the Ozone Nox Standards.

These are the major regulations that were being quickly imposed on American taxpayers. The response which I received took two-and-a-half months to get the response, but I'm -- understand that I'm one of the few recipients with an actually letter back from the EPA.

And I would ask that it be included as part of the record of the meeting today, Mr. Chairman, and the letter was basically nothing -- nothing short of referring me to an Internet link that directed me to Webpage, the same Webpage which generated the questions in the first place.

Essentially, they just simply suggested that I Google it. Not hardly a response that you would expect back from any federal agency, at least one that was trying to be responsive with regard to major proposed rules.

Working at a United States senator, I've found it nearly impossible to easily access the information that I'm looking for. I can't imagine the difficulty of a small business, a farmer or a rancher when they are seeking to get information from the Environmental Protection Agency.

As the EPA administrator, the role which you are seeking, do you believe that this is an adequate way to communicate with the public and elected officials, and what are you views on making agency communication and recordkeeping more transparent and accessible?

PRUITT:
Senator, this is actually a common theme, as I met with many of you on this committee, both Democrats and Republicans, it was expressed to me that a concern about the lack of response by the EPA at all in response to inquiries, let alone the time response.

And so I believe it's very important, as I indicated in my opening statement to listen, not only the voice of the American people, but listen to members of Congress, listen to members of this body with respect to the issues that are concern to them in their respective states.

And that's something I take very seriously and would seek to respond expeditiously to you and to others of this body with responses.

ROUNDS:

The Ranking Member had asked and was following up with the questions in terms of your role as the attorney general with regard to fracking issues in the Oklahoma, but also with regard to clean air attainment levels and so forth.

And it seemed to me that what you were trying to portray at the time, and I'd like you to expand on this because I think this is important, is it -- you have a different role as an attorney general than you would be if you were responsible as the agency within the state who had the direct and statutory authority to respond to those issues.

It seems to me that, that's one of the roles the EPA administrator has which would be different than that of an attorney general, which is the execution of the laws that we've passed. Could you expand a little bit? Because I think this is really important in terms of your -- the way you perceive your duties with regard to executing the laws that this Congress has passed.

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator, and I appreciate the question. The role of an administrator is to perform an executive role, an executive policy making role, and in carrying out the functions and the statutes that Congress has passed. That's much different than my current role as attorney general.

And as I tried to indicate to Senator Carper that in respect to enforcement actions in the state of Oklahoma, that's vested specifically in the Department of Environmental Quality. They're the ones that bring enforcement actions against companies who do not comply with air permits, et cetera.

We provide general counsel to them in that process but it is not our responsibility, but more, it's not our jurisdiction. And that's important to me because it goes back to rule of law, it goes back to process.

I think often times what we see in this country is that those kind of disregard the authority or jurisdiction that's been given to them by the statute of the constitution and they act anyway. That's what creates, I think a lack -- a lack of confidence in the American people. And so I've tried to respect those boundaries.

I've tried to respect my role as attorney general as attorney general, stay in my lane, if you will and provide the counsel and perform the job that we're supposed to perform to that agency, but then allow that agency to enforce, as required by law.

ROUNDS:
And then very quickly, that also means that with regard to determining the science behind the laws that we create, as the administrator, you're not going to make the determination yourself. You expect that sound science and that scientists with that background would be making the recommendations that you would then base a decision on?

PRUITT:
Yes, and we're objective and transparent in that process.

ROUNDS:
Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you Senator Rounds. Senator Booker?

BOOKER:
Mr. Chairman, if you would gracefully hold the clock for a second, because I want to respond very succinctly to something that Mr. -- Senator Boozman and you said. First of all to you, sir, I just want to say, it's my first time going through nomination hearings. You have been very generous with the way you've been conducting these hearings.

I think it's important that we know that, and I appreciate the number of rounds that you are doing. And then to Senator Boozman, I really do appreciate him adding to the line of inquiry on having you to me as a friend, which means a lot to me.

People around here, your colleagues know that you have a deep respect for the kind of kindness and -- and just decency that you represent to a level to which I aspire to but have not attained. So I thank you for that. Thank you for indulging me.

BARRASSO:
Thank you.

BOOKER:
And again, with -- with respect to my colleague who is a really good man, if this was between Delaware and New Jersey, I'm the up state, I would be very happy with the agreement that it seems that you -- that you did.

But you were the down state, and -- and so that's what I don't understand. Now, you said earlier in your testimony in regards to this matter that you have a copy of the 2003 agreement. Do you have that?

PRUITT:
I have the second agreement Senator, the one ...

BOOKER:
OK, well, let's just look at a 2000 agreement and I know you claimed in your testimony earlier that the 2003 agreement had an expiration on it.

PRUITT:
It was a ten year period that, that needed to be reevaluated. This is the second statement I have here, Senator. I don't have ...

BOOKER:
Yes, sir. I just want to clarify that it seems that it's a contradiction. There's no expiration on the 2003 agreement. It had a reevaluation, a period in which it would be reevaluated and it was reevaluated by your state with involvement of the EPA and the involvement of Arkansas and they came up with the same .037 standard.

And if you look at the provisions of what you do have in front of you, the 2013 agreement, and I have a blow up of Page 4 of that agreement, it states that, starting here, it states that, "Oklahoma, through the Water Resources Board will propose a rule amendment that removes the date

to achieve full compliance with the numeric phosphorous criterion set forth in Oklahoma administrative code." And then it lists these two codes.

And if you look at those two codes, what those two codes do -- you know what they are. They set the sections of phosphorous concentrations shall not exceed .037 by June 30. It's removing the June 30 deadline in these two statutes.

And so that -- that's what is frustrating to me is that this is what you're heralding as agreement, but you already had in your 2013 agreement, it's clear that you're doing to me, and I don't know of another way reading in the facts, is you take a binding rule of law and you suspend it for another three years allowing the more pollution to take place.

PRUITT:
Senator, that -- that is not -- the issue here was not whether Oklahoma could enforce it's .037 standard, it was whether Arkansas was going to adopt that standard on that side of the border. That had never take place in history. That was the concern of Oklahomans. That was the concern of Mr. Fite at the scenic Illinois River.

BOOKER:
And so I respect that. I'm going to stipulate to what you said. If you -- I'm running out of time, sir -- because I agree with you, whether Arkansas was going to be able to live up to that standard, but you're the Oklahoma attorney general, and this is what I want to say.

As soon as you did this so called, historic agreement that set it back, you basically turned to the EPA with the rule -- with the power of the law of the Supreme Court and say, OK, back off of my corporations. Why do I say that so confidently? Because I pull a letter from Tyson Foods that literally six days after your so called, historic agreement of suspending this rule for three years, they're delighted.

They write to the EPA and say, hey, you -- they have now already heard of the February 20th agreement by Arkansas and Oklahoma officials to jointly conduct an comprehensive study of concentrations and impacts in the Illinois River Shed. They're excited.

They literally say, compliance however, with the now .037 milligram has been suspended, so lay off us, EPA, under this agreement until the study process is completed. They say, "In conclusion, the by-state agreement has suspended implementation date of .037 during the term of the agreement."

Industry is really happy about this and believes, and of course this letter, unless you're saying Tyson's was wrong, they believe that what you did is give them the EPA with the power of the Supreme Court and the 20 years of work that predecessors of yours had done, the power to -- to -- to suspend that power of them to comply with the law.

And so that's really what I'm struggling with. On one hand you say that you filed lawsuits against 14 people against the EPA. It's this idea of federalism. Of Oklahoma sovereignty, Oklahoma state's rights, you're fiercely fighting for Oklahoma, and on the side of the polluters.

And you say, the EPA is attempting to do things but, then on the other hand in this case that you're talking about, you switch suddenly to say, "Well, Oklahoma's water quality standard for phosphorous that has been worked on for 25 years, armed with an EPA approval, armed with a Supreme Court decision on point saying that up river states are bound, industries believe that they're bound, but suddenly you're no longer fighting for Oklahoma.

You're fighting to protect industry and on the side of industry again.

PRUIT:
I can assure you, Senator, that industry didn't think they were bound. And I can ...

BOOKER:
Then why did Tyson's write the letter, sir?

PRUITT:
I don't -- I don't know. I don't know why they said that, because as Senator Boozman indicated earlier, the phosphorous level at .037 was unenforceable on the Arkansas side of the border and that's where the contribution was -- that was the concern. And until this agreement that we had here, was negotiated and signed by Arkansas.

That had never occurred in the history of Oklahoma.

BOOKER:
But sir, Arkansas was party to the 2012 scientific investigation. They're bound by a Supreme Court justice case, which I've pointed out to you already and I could read you the binding paragraphs, bought in by the EPA and obviously understood by industry that they were bound by that standard.

Your agreement didn't extend -- didn't -- didn't stop it. It extended the -- the -- the period in which people could pollute. I don't understand how that could be historic.

PRUITT:
Senator, I just -- I think as you look at what was achieved between Arkansas and Oklahoma, you have the Arkansas attorney general, Ed Fite, who was the old -- who had been involved in these issues, as indicated earlier since 1983, trying to enforce and obtain water quality to -- that improved the Illinois -- the Scenic Illinois River, he cited the historic results in this -- in this matter.

So I'm unaware of the letter that you're referring to, but I can assure you that industry was not, not at all excited about .037 being enforced on the Arkansas side of the border.

BOOKER:
And I'll conclude just by saying, sir, it's clear that industry was excited about the three-year delay that you bought them to continue to pollute. It's written there in a letter. And it seems to me the theme in your is not federalism and states' rights, but deregulation and siding with polluters against the environment and the public health standards.

And it's unfortunate to me that, that -- that -- unless you can show me something different in the way that this actually helped to clean up the river quicker, but I just don't see that at all in the evidence and the facts that I have before me.

BARRASSO:

Thank you very much Senator Booker. Our next questioner is actually Senator Boozman. Since we have Oklahoma and Arkansas both here, I don't know if you have a question Senator Boozman, or if you just want to make a comment about this agreement that -- since both of the states are here, I think you did represent the congressional district directly adjacent.

BOOZMAN:
No, I want to make a quick comment and then after that I think all of my questions have been answered and yield back if, you know, if we can have agreement. But, I think the thing, Senator Booker, to understand is, is that first of all the water was not being polluted at that point.

Arkansas had made tremendous improvement over the years and had just -- the discharge in Springdale, Fayetteville, Rogers, Bentonville, the major communities there, that have grown tremendously during that time frame, their discharges were down to, you know, very admirable levels. So all of that was being done. The question was, was .037 fair versus .04 or .05?

As I mentioned earlier, our most pristine river in Arkansas was not at .037. So we didn't feel like we could -- we could do that. So Arkansas -- Oklahoma was happy with all this stuff. Arkansas was not. And because of that in 2013, as the agreement ran out, they were prepared to sue -- or to go back to court again.

This thing had been litigated since the Supreme Court finding back in the '90s all along the line. But that's -- and to be honest, I'm not happy with the .037. I think it's too stringent. I would challenge, you know, to find a river in New Jersey that meets that standard, and you can't do it. It's a very, very stringent standard.

So it was -- it wasn't continuing to pollute and things like that. Tremendous progress made on the Arkansas side. Everyone agrees with that. It was where do you draw the limit. And so often with the EPA, this is so important. We've had on the committee, we've had the gentleman that represents the water district, you know, for this -- this huge area.

They spent $1 billion, you know, doing a great job of cleaning things up, raising everybody's rates. EPA has come back and wants them to spend another $1 billion for -- for a tiny fraction that everybody agrees would not have any impact on the water quality in the river. Those are the kind of things that you get into.

So, again, I'm not -- I'm really not happy at all about the .037. I think that Tyson's and the industry were happy in the sense that you would have a situation where you would have some finality, you would have some resolution so that everybody could go forward.

BARRASSO:
Senator Ernst, any final comments, or thoughts or questions?

ERNST:
I -- thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't have any further questions. Whatever additional questions I have, I will submit for the record. But I do have some closing comments. I do want to push back a little bit on the -- on the ranking member's comments earlier.

I had gone through a series of examples of overreach by the government with the expanded definition of waters of the U.S., and the ranking member had stated that he had a letter that he'd received from the Administrator Gina McCarthy.

And I have no doubt that she was answering those questions honestly, because she wasn't the one making the statements. The statements that I presented came from the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Justice. Now I know this to be true. These are not as implied from some obscure Website off the Internet done by some blogger in a basement somewhere.

The comments actually came from this committee, case studies from this committee September 2016. These are examples of case studies from all across the United States, and I will cite just one that I -- I opened up to.

"A land owner in California received an investigation letter from the Corps informing him that disking performed by a tenant farmer on his land may have resulted in an unauthorized discharge into WOTUS." And that regulators had opened a case against the land owner. They are being implemented case by case.

This letter came as a surprise to the land owner who had been disking this particular site periodically over the past 15 years to sustain grazing conditions for his cattle, a practice he believed was normal until he received this notice.

The Corps told the land owner's consultant that all disking for any purpose and at any depth with any potential WOTUS is a discharge into WOTUS and in the absence of a permit represents an unauthorized discharge in violation of the Clean Water Act. This is an actual letter from the Corps that was submitted to this committee, the EPW committee last year.

So this is not made up. This is a very real impact to all Americans. And so I appreciate your stance, Attorney General Pruitt that if you are confirmed, you will work with those that wish to continue farming normal practices. But this is not made up folks. And we just need everyone to understand that the Corps, the DOJ and the EPA have gone beyond what we consider to be reasonable application of the law. Thank you very much.

(UNKNOWN)
Mr. Chairman, if I could just respond very briefly. The letter that I sent on January 11, was not just to the EPA. It was the head of the EPA and also, that of the assistant secretary of the Army, the Department of the Army, who's in charge of the Army Corps of Engineers. So it was really to both, both EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

I gave them a 1/2 dozen or more questions, and said, this is -- these are the assertions that we're hearing. What is the truth? And they responded jointly. So, I would just leave it.

ERNST:

And if -- if I can respond to that. I -- I apologize because I was going to use Senator Rounds letter as a prop. I had not seen a letter from the EPA. I had written Administrator Gina McCarthy nearly two years ago on some issues that I was wanting addressed for Iowa.

And I invited her to come to Iowa and visit. She never ever responded to me or my staff. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:
Senator Markey?

MARKEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, you have criticized the Obama Administration on a number of occasions for allegedly quote "colluding with environmental groups to engage in sue and settle tactics." You just reiterated your concern to Senator Inhofe.

But in December, many of your co-plaintiff attorneys general who are suing the EPA over the Clean Power Plan sent a letter to President-elect Trump urging him to settle their lawsuits related to the Clean Power Plan. That sure sounds like an invitation to engage in sue and settle to me.

To avoid the appearance of entering into sweetheart settlements on the Clean Power Plan in cases, will you commit to recusing yourself from all ongoing litigation that you are involved in?

PRUITT:
Senator, I would say to you that the sue and settle practice, whether by this administration or future administrations is a practice that should not be followed. I believe that regulations through litigation is wrong.

I believe that the rule making process that Congress has established should be respected by agencies, not only the EPA but across the board. I would mentioned one case to you. That case is ...

MARKEY:

But this is what the -- it looks like that's what the attorneys general are doing who are suing and you're a co-plaintiff in this case on the Clean Power Plan. Will you recuse your -- will you recuse yourself from any role in the settling of these cases, in the negotiation on the settling of these cases?

PRUITT:
The sue and settle practice should not be used by any administration to regulate. We've experienced in Oklahoma a case involving the Fish and Wildlife and Endangered Species Act and the relisting of lesser prairie chicken that impacted our state. So sue and settle is wrong.

MARKEY:
So that is again ...

PRUITT:
That sue and settle is wrong.

MARKEY:
Are you giving me a yes, that you will not settle with these attorneys general?

PRUITT:
I will not engage in a sue and settle practice if confirmed as the EPA Administrator.

MARKEY:
OK, but ...

PRUITT:
Any time.

MARKEY:
So, will you negotiate with them to -- to reach a settlement, such as that has been recommended by the -- by the attorneys general who are the plaintiffs in this case against the Clean Power Plan?

PRUITT:
Senator, it is a belief of mine that the use of sue and settle is a practice that ...

MARKEY:
Right.

PRUITT:
... should not be done by ...

MARKEY:
I hear you.

PRUITT:
... any agency of the U.S. government.

MARKEY:
So you'll -- will you recuse yourself from any involvement in this litigation as it is being decided?

PRUITT:
As I've indicated to you Senator, the EPA at this counsel, career staff at the EPA has said that a particular matter in specific case, that those -- those will be evaluated at the time. I'll seek their counsel and comply with their counsel.

MARKEY:
Honestly, Mr. Pruitt, there is no bigger case than the Clean Power Plan. It goes to the promise that the United States is making to the world that we are going to reduce significantly our greenhouse gases. So this just goes to you, as an individual saying that since you brought the case with these other attorneys general that you will now recuse yourself.

PRUITT:
I would that ...

MARKEY:
Since you are in fact the plaintiff and defendant in this case, if you are confirmed as the EPA administrator.

PRUITT:
Senator, as I indicated to you earlier, and I'm sorry to interrupt you, but as I indicated to you earlier, I will recuse if directed by the EPA at this counsel, the career staff at EPA ethics. You know these individuals. They are -- they are -- they've been there and they -- I will follow their counsel and guidance.

MARKEY:
Well all right. I know I'm not going to get you to recuse yourself from any of these cases but I'm just telling you, it's going to wind up being a huge conflict of interest if theses attorneys general get to settle on their terms with the Trump administration, and you're sitting there in the middle of the room as that occurs.

Now let me -- let me go to another subject and that is this bottle of Trump water. Trump water, natural spring water, on the label it says, quote "Pure, fresh and free from contaminants. This is water the way it was meant to be." Trump hotel guests have the luxury of drinking this water, if they don't trust what comes out of the tap.

Low income communities across our country do not have the same luxury. Do you agree that the EPA plays a critical role in ensuring that all Americans regardless of racial, ethnic or economic backgrounds have a right to clean water, free from contaminants?

PRUITT:
Absolutely, in fact, Senator Booker and I already talked about environmental justice in our meeting.

MARKEY:

And that is great. As the wide spread lead contamination in Flint, Michigan water supply tragically reminds us, low income and minority communities often bear far greater environmental burdens. Yet you told Senator Cardin earlier today that you didn't know if there is any safe level of lead.

But scientific experts, including the CDC and World Health Organization have concluded that there is no safe level of lead exposure. Will you commit to making environmental justice for poor and minority communities an immediate priority of the EPA, if you are confirmed as administrator?

PRUITT:
I believe it's a very important role of the EPA administrator.

MARKEY:
Well, minority communities often don't have the monies ...

BARRASSO:
The Senator's time has expired in the third round.

MARKEY:
OK, thank you Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. The -- and now Senator Sullivan.

SULLIVAN:
Senator (sic) Pruitt, I just had one final question. We talked about some of the challenges that we have. You know, this committee's been working on the infrastructure issues. There's a lot of discussions over last year about Flint, Michigan and aging infrastructure, which I think is a concern at the state and local and federal levels.

There's also a challenge in certain parts of the country on no infrastructure, none, on clean water and sewer. And my state has over 30 communities that don't have any clean water and sewer in terms of the diseases and the living conditions in communities like that as you can imagine, it can be very difficult.

So in a bipartisan way this committee acted last year, established a new program for disadvantaged communities, small communities to work on those kind of issues for different communities, whether in Alaska or other part of the country that literally live in third-world conditions in some communities.

So that would be administered by the EPA, this new program. And I just want to get your commitment to work with us to fully fund that new program to work on those kind of issues.

PRUITT:
As we talked about in our meeting, Senator, I believe sometimes when infrastructure is referenced, we think roads and bridges and we don't think water infrastructure.

SULLIVAN:
Yeah.

PRUITT:
And I think all those are important. And I would make that a priority interfacing with Congress if confirmed as EPA administrator.

SULLIVAN:
Great, thank you. Thanks.

BARRASSO:
Thank you Senator Sullivan. I want to thank all the members for the respectful way in which the business was conducted today. Members may also submit follow up written questions, but it seems that everyone had plenty of opportunity to ask oral questions. Scheduled for the close -- the recording for the close of business, Thursday, January 19. Senator Carper?

CARPER:
I thought we were going to do one more round.

BARRASSO:
I thought three rounds was the longest in the history of this. The last -- the only other time there were three rounds was Christy Todd Whitman in 2001. And those were three rounds of five minutes each and the reason that she, as a Republican nominee was given three rounds is that the chairman of the committee was Harry Reid.

So the three rounds. The witness has been here since 10:00. It is now 4:30, so he's been six-and-a-half hours, and I think three rounds by any criteria that one would use each of five minutes, when -- when Gina McCarthy was nominated and I had significant numbers of questions, Barbara Boxer limited me to five minute round, one five minute round and one two minute round.

We have more than doubled today that amount of time for questioning.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman?

BARRASSO:
Senator?

CARPER:
I'm certainly not saying that you've been unfair with us, but until this very minute, I don't think it has been clear to anyone that there was a three round limit, and I believe you opened the hearing by saying that we'd go on until people's questions were answered.

So this is a bit of a novelty, but again please don't take it as a criticism of your fairness. I think that you have been fair. This is just news and I do have a bunch of questions right here that I'd hoped to ask as -- as what I expected to be a final fourth round.

BARRASSO:
Well, then I would already invite you to please submit those follow up

written questions by tomorrow at close of business.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could I be recognized? Yeah, I ...

BARRASSO:
Senator Carper and then Senator Booker.

CARPER:
I appreciate the way you've conducted this -- this hearing today. Appreciate all the members coming again -- coming back again and again. When -- when we were talking a week or two ago about where to have the hearing, whether to have one day of hearings or two days of hearings, we were interested -- our side was interested in having two days of hearings.

We were interested in having an outside panel and it was explained to us that the -- that's not really the tradition of the committee to have an outside panel. But -- and you said, I'd prefer to do it in one day and we'll stay as long as people have questions. I think that was almost exactly your words. And that's hard to argue with.

We can stay as long as people have questions. Some of the folks have some more questions. I know I do. And we're not running out the clock. They're honest questions. And I would just ask that you think back on our earlier conversation and you see your way clear to have one more round and we'll call it a day.

BARRASSO:
Yeah, well, I would say a couple of things. One, is I offered to start the committee meeting earlier today because there are many of us who have commitments into the evening. People from our home states who are here for the inauguration activities. We have commitments for our home states. And the idea of starting at 9:00 was rejected.

The -- wanted to go along, I think right before the third round, I said, now, if there's going to be an ongoing, maybe we should take a break, give the witness an opportunity to take a break. You said, no, let's plow on. The witness has been sitting there now for just about three hours.

And depending on the wishes of the committee, my preference is to say we have done more than ever done in the last 16 years or 17 years for nominees. I mean if people have one or two questions, I would want to give the witness an opportunity to stretch his legs. I'll be happy to stay and we can come back with a three minute round.

But I just don't -- I think there -- people have obligations and commitments and we thought we would be completed by now, and it does seem that many of the end, you know, not as -- and for people that are here now, they could go a -- you know.

So we have two members, three members, if you want to go two to three minutes, or one or two questions, I think we would be able to accommodate but to bring back the entire committee and go into the night --

CARPER:
No, I'm not -- I'm not suggesting we bring back the entire -- I'm going to just suggest that, if we can, maybe we can agree here. Those that are here today, right this moment, if they have question, give them five minutes. And then when they're done, then we're done, we're done. Yeah.

BARRASSO:
Any objection from our side? Any with these other ...

CARPER:
You have to go with ...

BARRASSO:
Senator Inhofe?

INHOFE:
Although we would be able to yield back any time that ...

BARRASSO:
Sure.

INHOFE:
... we have if we didn't want to use it.

CARPER:
Or you could yield to us.

INHOFE:
OK, I can only say that ...

(Laughter)

INHOFE:
I can only say that I've chaired this committee for quite a number of years. I've been through this once before and there is always an effort by those who are perhaps not really satisfied as some of the others might be to try to make it continue on and on and on. I would prefer to go -- go ahead.

I think we've all had adequate time and -- and be prepared to vote.

BARRASSO:
Well, we don't have a vote scheduled for today on this. We don't have an agreement on that. So there wouldn't be -- wouldn't be a vote. I would -- I would say if -- if the -- if the ...

INHOFE:
Well, if that's the case then we can confine it to, for the record.

(UNKNOWN)
(Inaudible).

BARRASSO:
Any other suggestions from the ...

SULLIVAN:

Mr. Chairman, I think you've been exceedingly fair, particularly relative to the confirmation of Gina McCarthy and I think it's purely within your call to have the additional questions be submitted for the record. Still the opportunity for the witness to answer the questions.

He'll still have to do it before his confirmation, but relative to any other EPA administrator hearing, you've been very generous, very fair and I think that from that perspective ...

CARPER:
Could I -- could I just ...

SULLIVAN:
... I think that, that's a very fair outcome, to still ask the questions. Just submit the questions for the record.

CARPER:
Yeah, could I respond to our colleague from Alaska? I don't know if you remember, a year or two ago, there was a joint session of the House and Senate committees and other (sic) committees, and the witness was Gina McCarthy and I arrived four hours into the hearing and after a while I was recognized to -- to ask a question.

And my question of Gina McCarthy was, "You've been here for four hours, haven't you?" She said, "Yes." And I said, "Is there question you haven't been asked that you wish you had been asked?" And she said, "Yes." I said, "What is it?" She said, "I wish I'd been asked if I needed a bathroom break."

I don't -- I don't know if the witness needs a bathroom break, but if you need one for a couple minutes, we can arrange that. And I can say, here's what we're asking for. Five minutes, Cory Booker, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tom Carper. We ask him a question and we're done. That's it. Can you handle that?

BARRASSO:
I asked before ...

CARPER:
Why don't you say, yes? We're wasting a lot of time here, otherwise we'll just ...

BARRASSO:
How about the ...

CARPER:
... keep talking around it.

BARRASSO:
As you said, you have a couple of questions, you have a couple -- let's go three minutes each and then we'll call it good.

CARPER:
All right.

BARRASSO:
You're -- you're up.

BOOKER:
Mr. Chairman?

BARRASSO:
Senator Booker?

BOOKER:
I'd asked to be recognized earlier. I do want to ...

BARRASSO:
Yes, oh, I'm -- I apologize. Yes, sir?

BOOKER:

No, I just want to repeat, I do think what Senator Sullivan said, you have been very, very generous. It's true. I appreciate what seems like an accord right now of a few minutes each, I'd appreciate that.

One thing you didn't mark, which I think should be really important is I have no sympathy for the nominee and his endurance. I do have for his family behind him who has sat through all this, and I just want to mark for the record that they are true champs and I think that's important to know. And I thank them for their indulgence, not the nominee, but ...

BARRASSO:
Well, I would just say ...

BOOKER:
... I think that's more evidence that he cares for the children of Oklahoma.

(Laughter)

BARRASSO:
I would just say, many people -- more people vote for me because of my wife than vote for me, and I would suggest for you as well, in the case of this nominee. So ...

BOOKER:
Let me yield to Senator Whitehouse.

BARRASSO:
OK.

WHITEHOUSE:
I just wanted to touch on two things and then we'll wrap up. The first is that on your questionnaire, you listed an email address with a me.com domain, as your business email.

You also have an oag.ok.gov address. Are there other email address that you have and are there other email addresses that you use for business, other than your me.com and your oag.ok.gov email addresses?

PRUITT:
The -- I'm sorry, Senator. The -- the me address is not a business email address. It's a -- it's a -- and I'm not sure why it was designated as such. I'm on my first visit ...

WHITEHOUSE:
OK, maybe we can prescribe the filing on that...

PRUITT:
Yeah, but there are no ...

WHITEHOUSE:
... so there's no other ...

PRUITT:
... there are no other email addresses, if that's your question, Senator.

WHITEHOUSE:
We have gone through the cases that you list as your environmental cases and when we take out the cases that were started by your predecessor, Drew Edmondson, and when you take out the cases that are fish kill cases, which as I understand is a form you lake matter (ph) that is resolved by letter at the staff level, you count the fish, you pay the fee.

And when you take out the qui tam cases, which are a, for those who aren't lawyers, a private individual who brings an action and then attorney general can step in and take the action over if they want, but it's brought in the first instance by a private individual. And then if you take out the cases in which you sued EPA, there is virtually nothing left.

And in addition to that, we have that you closed the Environmental Protection Unit in Oklahoma as a free standing unit. You told me when we met that you had rolled it into your Federalism unit, but I was just on the Federalism's unit's Website and the word "environmental" doesn't even appear on that.

And it appears to be run by the solicitor general and it says over and over again that it's involved in appellate litigation. And of course, if you're bringing an action, you're not starting at the appellate level. Finally, the --

PRUITT:
Senator, if I may -- the Deputy Solicitor General Clayton Banks was actually employed by the previous attorney general. He has been designated a deputy solicitor general and is responsible for environmental related advise and consent to ...

WHITEHOUSE:
Yep.

PRUITT:
... those agencies.

WHITEHOUSE:
Yeah, that's a different function, though. That's a different function than to bring an action. I've been an attorney general, too. I know the difference. The attorney general has an obligation to provide lawyers to give advice to agencies, but you also have the authority to bring criminal actions, if you wish, and you have the authority to bring civil actions, if you wish.

And it's those authorities that I believe have not gotten much attention. And the last piece of that, because you will have a chance to respond, but I'm on a short clock, thanks, is that there was an Oklahoma Environmental Crimes Taskforce that your predecessor led and it describes.

And I'd ask to have these documents put into the -- the record, from 1997 to 2010, the OECTS, the Environmental Crimes Taskforce of the Environmental Protection Unit in conduction with the EPA and other entities conducted 142 criminal investigations resulting in 56 prosecutions.

Criminal cases resulted individual convictions on 110 felony and 21 misdemeanor counts, $8 million in fines, 28 years of jail time. We can put it in the record. Is there even -- do you even participate in the Oklahoma Environmental Crimes Taskforce still?

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

PRUITT:
Senator, as I've indicated, we each day with our Department of Environmental Quality on enforcement along with other agencies. I guess it's a matter of quote/unquote "who takes the credit for that type of enforcement." But those individuals have offered statements to this body. They are a matter of the record.

You've heard statements that the Chairman has referred to that -- that we have worked diligently with those agencies to enforce appropriately, and I would refer to their statements in response.

BARRASSO:
Thank you -- Senator Booker.

BOOKER:
Thank you very much. So first of all, I appreciate you talking about environmental justice and mentioned that we did talk about that and I felt good about your personal commitments to at least me that you were pursue that. I just want to just go through this last point. I want to put together a fact pattern here, then let you have that and dispute it.

I know there's at least one point in here you dispute, but I really want to get to the -- what I draw from the facts, and you can again, have the last word. So, what I'm seeing, when I put together all the facts, and just a pattern.

You know, there was a litigation from your predecessor that you declined to conclude when you got in against a polluting poultry producers who were dumping hundreds of thousands of tons of chicken waste into the Illinois River shed. You shut down the Environmental Enforcement Unit in your office.

This is the one I know you -- you do not agree with me on, but I see it as that you also attempted to suspend Oklahoma's Water Quality Standard for three years. But the last fact, and again, you have the last word here, sir, is that you also supported a constitutional amendment State Question 777, the so called, Right to Farm amendment that would have made it more difficult for the Oklahoma State Legislature.

Again, you talk about federalism, now you're trying to take the teeth out of the Oklahoma State Legislature and local government to enact their own environmental laws in the future. And -- and this kind of support, and I looked all throughout magazines, you're going in support of this is clear. Here you are in the Pro and Con about supporting 777.

Here is, mostly is world boards who are against you on this in your state. Here's one from Tulsa World Endorsement, that said, "The measure would prevent future state and local regulation on farming and livestock activities, unless the state has a compelling state interest." A very high legal standards, as I know, not the lawyer that you are, sir, but I know that, that is a very hard one, standard to meet.

And so this is the challenge is that, this idea that you're supporting federalism versus, it seems to me a pattern of you being on the side of the polluters, and even trying to take the teeth out of the state legislature's ability to regulate these harmful environmental toxins. I'm happy that this -- this ballot initiative was overwhelming defeated by Oklahoma voters.

But as I see you ascending potentially to this very important position, sir, I just worry about whose side you're going to be on, given the fact pattern that I have about big industry, about big pollution, especially as I know the billions of animals that we have in K-foes (?) that are poisoning rivers all over this country.

I really just want you to respond that, sir. And I'll says, because this will be my last word, you will have it, I want to thank you for your indulgence. I know this has been a long day and I want to thank your family as well.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator. And let me -- let me respond. There's been some confusion about the litigation. You made references to several things there and if I may respond to a couple. The litigation to which you refer, Senator Boozman actually refer to it as well.

My predecessor did bring an action approximately 2007 time frame against the poultry industry and many other defendants in the northern district of Oklahoma. That case had been fully litigated, submitted to the court for decision before I ever came into office.

It was an example of potentially regulation through litigation, and I've talked about that earlier in response to questions. I had every authority to dismiss that case when I came into office. I did not. That case is still pending today, awaiting a federal judge's decision. I've taken no action to undermine that case.

I've done nothing but file briefs in support of the court making a decision. So I -- that's a point of clarity on the litigation. With respect to our -- our office, I submitted this in response to Senator Whitehouse's request. We met earlier, or excuse me, last week and he asked about FTEs and budget. I've submitted responses to him.

We have almost a $700,000 budget that the administrator of our office has attributed to environmental related activities and seven FTEs that are associated with that as well. So, I want to make sure that those two -- those two items were shared with you in response to your -- your comments.

BOOKER:
You have nothing to respond to on -- on the State Question 777?

PRUITT:

The State Question 777, we're actually involved in a ballot drafting of those things and so, though -- though you represented that I was actively involved in endorsement or involved in the -- I -- I really was not as far as the actual vote and -- now, there was some op-ed and some decisions, but I've tried to -- to make sure that I didn't get involved in that because of our other obligations in the office.

BARRASSO:
Senator Carper?

BOOKER:
And I can submit this for the record, sir, the -- the ...

BARRASSO:
Yes, without objection.

BOOKER:
Thank you, sir.

CARPER:
Mr. Pruitt, earlier today I mentioned that I'd submitted a list of about 50 questions to you shortly after Christmas. I asked for a response by January 9, and got none, and I asked my staff earlier this morning if we'd gotten the written responses on those questions as of today, and I understand that we have not.

You're going to receive a number of question for the record from us, Democrat and Republicans, and I'm anxious what your response are to those -- those questions. But we need your answers. And we need good answers. And the idea of waiting two or three weeks and not providing anything is just unacceptable. So just -- just to put on -- put that out there.

PRUITT:
Well, if I could, Senator ...

CARPER:

Secondly, I would like to ask you a question, if I may.

PRUITT:
... if -- if I may offer this. I tried to, and I talked to the Chairman about this, with respect to your -- your questions you submitted, I was respecting the protocol of the Chair in responding to those questions and committed that those questions would be answered for the record post the hearing, and that's what I was directed to do by the Chairman.

CARPER:
All right. Second, based on your earlier statements, I just want to clarify something. If confirmed, can we have your assurances that the EPA will continue to regulate mercury emissions from power plants under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act, and you will not defer to the states?

PRUITT:
Mercury, under the Section 112 is -- is something that the EPA should deal with and regulate.

CARPER:
Thank you. I -- I came across a quote from you that said -- I think you stated the following about an EPA rule involving cross-state smog pollution and the EPA rule. I think you were quoted as saying, "Threatened the competitive edge Oklahoma has enjoyed for years with low cost and reliable electric generation.

This low cost energy not only benefits Oklahoma manufacturers, but gives our state a considerable edge in recruiting new jobs." And the question I would ask, as at the peril of those of us who live in states that are downwind from where Oklahoma might be, as you lower your energy cost to benefit Oklahomans, I just want to ask you, in the spirit of the Golden Rule, keep in mind what that means for us.

Keep in mind what that means for -- for us, because in my state, as I said earlier on, I can shut down my state's economy and we still would have been out of compliance from any number of clean air requirements, and that was not because of anything we put up in the air.

It's because of what folks out to the west put up in the air and it eventually came down to end of America's tail pipe. I would just ask that you do that. The last, we have a chart, this quickly chart, may we see this chart? This is an interesting chart. This is what we call a busy chart. It's a busy chart.

And it looks at the issue of cross-border air pollution. As you can see with this chart, smog pollution in our country moves all over the place, I mean all over the place. As I mentioned, as Delaware's governor, they shut down my state in order to come into compliance with the clean air challenges.

Under your vision for EPA, it sounds like states will be left on their own to deal with this very complex problem that we see demonstrated right here. And I would just ask, how do states address this pollution, this kind of pollution you see demonstrated here without the assistance of the EPA?

PRUITT:
Well, Senator, as I indicated earlier today, I believe that, as an example the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule to which you just referred is a very important authority that the EPA needs to exercise. It needs to do so within the processes that have been provided by the statute. But it -- it's something that's very important for the EPA to perform and execute.

CARPER:
All right. Mr. -- I was going to submit a request to submit for the records, Mr. Chairman to a number of letters of concerns that about, and many letters in opposition to, in some cases for, other cases opposition to Mr. Pruitt's nomination, about 14 in all. I would just ask to consent to put it into the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

CARPER:
Thank you so much.

BARRASSO:
Thank you.

CARPER:
And again to Mr. Pruitt, your family, thank you all for -- for joining us today. I just want to say I peek at KD (ph) your son right, sitting right behind you. I could barely see KD's lips moving when you spoke. And so, I suspect he has a future in law, I'm not sure, but ...

PRUITT:
We'll see. Thank you, Senator.

BARRASSO:
And, Attorney General Pruitt, I do want to follow up with what you said, the -- you were instructed by the committee. I have a copy for the record of the January 9th letter, which was the day that you were asked to submit the 52 answers to the responses.

It's a letter from me to the Ranking Member saying, "Please note, the EPW Committee does not require nominees to responded to questions in advance of a hearing." And I know you'll be responding to the written questions that will be submitted by tomorrow night.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman, could I just add -- add a short thing?

That -- that's -- that's a conversation between you and the Chairman, I understand that. But again, I just reiterate, you'll receive a lot of questions, including some that have been unanswered from the 50 or so I submitted two or three weeks ago. We need your responses. We need your responses. And hope the Chairman will give you a reasonable amount of time to respond to those question, because there'll be quite a few of them, and they're not going to be like multiple choice answers. It'll -- they won't be true and false. They'll be more complex. Thank you.

BARRASSO:

Additionally, I'm going to introduce for the record an article from the Economist about mercury and the Mercury Rule, and it's interesting because it says, "Rule making is being made to look more beneficial under Barak Obama." But it goes to say, "A casual listener would have assumed that all these benefits came from reduced mercury.

In fact, reduce mercury explained none of the purported future reduction in deaths, heart attacks and asthma and less than 0.01 percent of the monetary benefits. Instead, almost all of the benefits came from concomitant reductions in a pollutant that was not the principle target of the Mercury Rule, namely fine particles.

And I'll submit that for the record as we look at the issues going into the -- in the future. So I want to thank all of the members of the Committee for your patience. I certainly want to thank the nominee for his time and his testimony today. The hearing is adjourned.

List of Panel Members and Witnesses

PANEL MEMBERS:
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SEN. JAMES M. INHOFE, R-OKLA.

SEN. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, R-W.VA.

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SEN. TAMMY DUCKWORTH, D-ILL.

SEN. JAMES LANKFORD, R-OKLA.

SEN. BERNARD SANDERS, I-VT.

WITNESSES:
STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL SCOTT PRUITT, R-OKLA.,
NOMINATED TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

Source: **CQ Transcripts**

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Hearing entitled, "Nomination of Attorney General Scott Pruitt to be Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency"
January 18, 2017
Questions for the Record for the Honorable E. Scott Pruitt

Senator Booker:

1. For many years I have worked with the EPA on the Passaic River superfund clean-up project in my home city of Newark. In 2016, the EPA announced an historic plan to remediate the Passaic River from toxic chemicals, PCBs, and other contaminants that resulted from the production of Agent Orange. The project will remove 3.5 million cubic yards of toxic sediment from the lower eight miles of the Passaic River in New Jersey—the largest environmental dredging project in the history of the federal Superfund program.
a. If confirmed do you commit to make implementation of the Passaic River cleanup project a priority?
b. If confirmed do you commit to carrying out the EPA Region II March 3, 2016 "Record of Decision" for the Lower 8.3 miles of the Lower Passaic River in a timely and efficient manner?

I am not familiar with the details of the remedy that has been selected for the Passaic River Superfund site, but if confirmed, I expect to make clean up of contaminated sites one of my priorities and will seek input from Congress and relevant stakeholders before taking action in this matter.

2. As the former Mayor of Newark, I have seen how low-income and minority communities living in close proximity to the port of Newark are exposed to high levels of air pollution resulting in serious health problems. Across the nation 13 million people—3.5 million of whom are children—live near major marine ports or rail yards. What is your plan to address the pressing environmental justice concerns regarding poor air quality near major seaports and other congested nodes in our nation's freight network? I have been a champion of the bipartisan Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program that helps replace diesel engines and helps make major sea ports and inland transportation hubs cleaner and more efficient. If confirmed can you commit to supporting the DERA program?

As I committed to you during the meeting in your office, I understand there are wide ranging variety of environmental justice issues affecting urban and rural America. In fact, as you will recall, I've committed to work with your office and visit impacted areas with you. I am also aware that the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program has received bipartisan support from

members of the Environment and Public Works Committee. If confirmed, I would like to work with members of Congress to best direct resources to bipartisan initiatives.

3. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues currently facing the planet. Rising sea levels and extreme weather are currently threatening the safety and security of my constituents in New Jersey. Lower income and vulnerable communities are disproportionately impacted by the extreme heat and flooding events that are becoming more common and more severe. Given the immediate and increasing threat to my constituents and to people everywhere, what is your plan to address climate change?

If confirmed, I will work to achieve the objectives of EPA-administered laws consistent with the process and framework established by Congress. I will work closely with the states in establishing and implementing regulatory standards to ensure a meaningful and effective advancement of these objectives.

4. In 2016, troubling reports of lead contamination in school drinking water in New Jersey and other areas of the country made clear the urgent need to test school drinking water and remediate school drinking water infrastructure that is contaminating the water our children drink.
a. What is your plan to prioritize and expedite the EPA's efforts to eliminate lead contamination in school drinking water?

If confirmed, I will fully carry out EPA's authorities, including its authorities under the Safe Drinking Water Act. I note that in the WIIN Act, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to authorize funding for voluntary school lead testing. If confirmed and if funding is provided, I will carry out that program.

5. If you are confirmed, how would EPA respond when a state permits pollution to be discharged into a smaller waterway that leads to contamination of drinking water supplies in a downstream state?

If confirmed, I would follow the processes set forth in the Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations.

6. How do you define "environmental justice"? Do you think it's a serious issue?

I am familiar with the concept of environmental justice. As I testified, the Administrator plays an important role regarding environmental justice. I agree that it is important that all Americans be treated equally under the law, including the environmental laws.

7. Decades of peer-reviewed academic and government research demonstrate that low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately experience environmental burdens compared to other populations in the United States. Do you agree with this conclusion? If not, why?

As I testified at the hearing, I am familiar with the concept of environmental justice and believe the Administrator plays an important role in this regard. I agree that it is important that all Americans be treated equally under the law, including the environmental laws.

8. What do you believe are the legal obligations of EPA to ensure that recipients of EPA funds comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

The obligations of recipients of federal funds are defined by the statutes and regulations to which you refer. Those statutes and regulations speak for themselves.

9. There are currently hundreds of unresolved Title VI civil rights complaints before EPA. Recent reports from EPA's OIG and independent organizations have documented EPA's long-standing failure to enforce Title VI. If confirmed, what will you do as EPA Administrator to address this?

If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by staff and review any recommendations by the Office of Inspector General before taking action on this issue.

10. Indigenous communities are consistently targeted for energy extraction, nuclear waste, uranium mining and/or oil and natural gas pipelines. How will you address this moving forward?

If confirmed, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress relating to protection of indigenous communities.

11. Children living in communities of color and low-income communities have the highest blood lead levels of all children in the United States, and even some developing countries. As Administrator, what steps would you take to address this?

I am concerned about high-blood levels in children and children's health generally. As I testified, the Administrator has a significant role regarding environmental issues. If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed to learn about EPA's legal authorities and ongoing programs and outstanding recommendations from the Inspector General, if any, concerning this issue before taking action.

12. As Administrator will you continue to convene and implement the advice and recommendations of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, a federal advisory committee to EPA since 1993?

As I testified, the Administrator plays an important role regarding environmental justice. I am not personally familiar with the legal authorities or activities concerning this advisory committee but I would expect, if confirmed, to be briefed by staff about ongoing programs and activities before taking any action. If confirmed, I would work to faithfully execute the laws EPA is responsible for administering, in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans. If confirmed, I would expect EPA to operate in an open and transparent manner, consider the views of stakeholders as appropriate, act based on sound science, and follow the laws as established by Congress.

13. As Administrator, will you work to have of EPA's EJ 2020 Plan fully implemented?

As I testified, the Administrator plays an important role regarding environmental justice. I am personally unfamiliar with the details of current initiatives regarding environmental justice referenced in the question, but I would expect, if confirmed, to be briefed by staff about ongoing programs and activities before taking any action.

14. Do you intend to meet minority community members and leaders who have concerns about an environmental or health issue within your EPA jurisdiction?

Yes, if confirmed.

15. Public participation is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy and a basic component of good US policy development and enforcement. What are your plans to maximize inclusion and participation in decision-making processes by historically marginalized communities of color?

As I testified, the Administrator plays an important role regarding environmental justice. If confirmed, I would expect EPA to operate in an open and transparent manner, consider the views of stakeholders as appropriate, act based on sound science, and follow the laws as established by Congress, including the Civil Rights Act. If confirmed, I would work to faithfully execute the laws EPA is responsible for administering, in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans.

16.Illegal solid waste dumping sites where hundreds of thousands of pounds of trash and waste tires harbor disease-carrying vectors and pests such as mosquitoes, which transmit life threatening diseases like dengue, west Nile and zika viruses can be found all over the United States. These dumping sites

disproportionally affect low income and minority communities. What will you do to address this health threat to these communities?

I understand the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act prohibits open dumping, and under this law states have primary responsibility to regulate solid waste disposal. If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by staff and to hear the views of states and other stakeholders before taking any action consistent with EPA's legal authorities.

17.Monitoring of our coastal waters is critical to ensure the health and safety of its swimmers and bathers. Many coastal communities, especially low-income and minority communities have limited free recreational opportunities other than spending the day at the beach. As EPA administrator will you commit to continuing EPA's BEACHES program, which provides funding for state water quality monitoring programs that ensure healthy and safe recreation?

I am not personally familiar with the BEACHES program, but I would expect, if confirmed, to be briefed by staff about the program. If confirmed, I would work to faithfully execute the laws EPA is responsible for administering, including those authorizing the BEACHES program, in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans. If confirmed, I would expect EPA to operate in an open and transparent manner, consider the views of stakeholders as appropriate, act based on sound science, and follow the laws as established by Congress.

18.A 2014 study by scientists at Lawrence National Laboratory at Berkeley reported that an estimated 10 % of chemicals used in fracking fluid are known to be toxic to humans and aquatic life. Fracking practices commonly are conducted in fringe low-income and working class communities. Since these toxics are known to leach into waterways how will you ensure this is prevented?

As was affirmed by Congress in drafting the Lautenberg Act, hazard is only one characteristic of risk and simply stating a chemical substance has toxicity does not mean there is exposure. EPA is tasked with carrying out laws as directed by Congress and if I am confirmed, I will use the authorities vested in me to protect drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

19. Nationally, 13 percent of the population lives within three miles of a Superfund site while in New Jersey, 50 percent of the population lives within three miles—the highest percentage in any state. New Jersey has 113 Superfund sites on the National Priority List—more than any other state. These sites are the most heavily contaminated properties in the country, and are the areas that pose the greatest potential risk to public health and the environment. What is your plan to strengthen the EPA's superfund program?

If confirmed, I would expect to prioritize the cleanup of contaminated land. I would also expect to be briefed by staff and to receive the views of relevant stakeholders on ways to improve the operation of the Superfund program, if confirmed. I also understand the Government Accountability Office and the EPA Inspector General regularly review the operation and activities of the Superfund program and, if confirmed, I would expect to look to their recommendations for additional areas for improvement, if confirmed.

20. If confirmed do you commit to working to include substantial funding for Superfund cleanups in the new administration's request for a large national infrastructure package?

If confirmed, I expect to make cleanup of contaminated sites one of my priorities.

21. In 2003, Arkansas and Oklahoma signed an agreement, the Statement on Joint Principles to take several measures to reduce phosphorus pollution in the Illinois River Watershed. One requirement was for Oklahoma to revise its 0.037 mg/L phosphorus criterion by 2012, which it did. Why, instead of supporting the conclusion of your own state Water Resources Board, did you delay implementation an additional three years by negotiating another agreement to conduct yet another study?

The "Statement of Joint Principles and Actions" did not require Oklahoma to "revise" its criterion, but rather stated that "Oklahoma will reevaluate Oklahoma's .037 mg/l criterion for total phosphorus in Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers by 2012, based on the best scientific information available at that time, and with the full, timely inclusion of officials from the State of Arkansas representing both point and non point source dischargers." As of 2012, which was the final date for the reevaluation to occur, Arkansas maintained its objection that Oklahoma's .037 mg/l criterion was inappropriate, and not based on the best scientific information available at that time. Rather than protract a now decades long dispute that appeared to again be headed towards litigation once again, I instead negotiated an agreement whereby Arkansas agreed to be finally bound to the results of a new study that would use the best scientific information available at the time to determine the appropriate criterion. This agreement avoided the prospect of more litigation, and ultimately resolved the dispute (with Oklahoma getting the stringent standard that it wanted).

22. In your testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, you said that the 2003 agreement expired during your term? Where exactly in the agreement do you see any expiration to the agreement?

The "Statement of Joint Principles and Actions" stated that "Oklahoma will reevaluate Oklahoma's .037 mg/l criterion for total phosphorus in Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers by 2012, based on the best scientific information available at that time, and with the full, timely inclusion of officials from the State of Arkansas representing both point and non point source dischargers." As of 2012, which was the final date for the reevaluation to occur, Arkansas maintained its objection that the .037 mg/l criterion was inappropriate, and not based on the best scientific information available at that time. Therefore, the 2013 Agreement was reached with Arkansas whereby it agreed to be bound by the results of a new study that would use the best scientific information available at the time to determine the appropriate criterion.

23. The 2003 agreement says that, "The state of AR and OK, acting through their environmental agencies, will reissue the above-specified cities' NPDES permits on a normal five (5) year resistance cycle, with the understanding that NPDES permits for these point source dischargers to the shared Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Watershed issued in the year 2012 or beyond must include phosphorus limits stringent enough to meet applicable water quality standards."
a. Do you agree that the 2003 agreement places obligations on NPDES permitted facilities in Arkansas beyond 2012?
b. Because Oklahoma reevaluated its criterion in 2012, does this section require that NPDES permits issued in Arkansas have to be stringent enough to meet Oklahoma's .037 mg/L phosphorus water quality standard by 2012 and then beyond 2012?
c. In your testimony before the Environment and Public Works committee, you testified that the agreement was "historic" and OK's phosphorus limit would be implemented for the first time in history on both sides of the river. Do you agree that the .037 mg/L phosphorus criterion was enforceable on both sides of the border under the terms of the 2003 agreement?

Yes. No. No.

24. In the 2013 agreement between Arkansas and Oklahoma, you agreed "not to institute or maintain administrative enforcement actions, judicial proceedings or take regulatory actions contrary to this second statement."
a. Why did you agree to suspend your enforcement authority?
b. How many enforcement actions did you suspend?
c. Do you interpret "judicial proceedings" to include any judgment in the pending case your predecessor brought against 14 poultry polluters? Was this agreement intended to suspend enforcement of any judicial resolution of that case?

I did not agree to suspend enforcement authority. The Agreement simply acknowledged that neither state would take actions that would violate the terms of the agreement. I do not know if any enforcement proceedings were suspended, as my office is not the entity that would be involved in such

actions. I do not interpret "judicial proceedings" in that manner, and the agreement was not so intended.

25. In 2013, you negotiated an agreement with Arkansas that allowed those municipal dischargers to continue discharging at 1 mg/l phosphorus, agreed to remove the 2012 deadline for complying with Oklahoma's phosphorus standard, and agreed to reopen Oklahoma's phosphorus water quality standard. Since Arkansas had already agreed, in 2003, to ensure that its large municipal dischargers would fully comply with Oklahoma's phosphorus standard starting in 2012, why did you let them out of that agreement in 2013? Please identify any provision of your 2013 agreement that requires these dischargers to meet Oklahoma's phosphorus standards after February 20, 2016.
a. Since the U.S. EPA approved Oklahoma's Phosphorus Standard in 2003, what legal basis do you think Arkansas had to file a lawsuit challenging since the time for filing a legal challenge had expired? If you do not believe the time for filing a legal challenge had expired, please explain the basis for your belief.
b. Do you agree that Arkansas is required to ensure that its point source discharge permits comply with all Oklahoma water quality standards that have been approved by the U.S. EPA under the case of Arkansas v. Oklahoma, including the phosphorus standard approved in 2003? Please state the basis for your belief.
c. The Joint Study Committee authorized by your 2013 agreement recommended a standard different from Oklahoma's existing phosphorus water quality standard. Please explain whether this recommended standard will supplant Oklahoma's current water quality standard, and why you have state that the study confirmed Oklahoma's existing 30-day geometric mean 0.037 mg/l phosphorus standard. What is your understanding of the impact of excluding samples taken during conditions where surface runoff is the dominant influence of total flow and stream ecosystem processes?

The 2013 Agreement did not "let anyone out" of the 2003 Agreement. Arkansas believed that it had legal recourse to resist a criterion to which it objected. Without that additional context as to the claims to which you refer, I am unable to answer your question relating to time bar of Arkansas' hypothetical claims. With regard to Arkansas's obligations, pursuant to the 2013 Agreement, Arkansas is now obligated to adopt and implement a stringent phosphorus standard. The study "used a weight of evidence approach to recommend a six-month average total phosphorus level of not to exceed 0.035 milligrams per liter based on water samples collected during critical conditions was necessary[.]" As I've stated, this confirmed that Oklahoma's 0.037mg/l standard was--despite Arkansas's arguments that it was unnecessarily stringent--necessary to protect the watershed. I am not familiar with the "the impact of excluding samples taken during conditions where surface runoff is the dominant influence of total flow and stream ecosystem processes," to which you refer, and thus cannot offer an opinion on that statement.

26. You stated in your EPW Questionnaire that you negotiated an agreement with Arkansas to reduce phosphorus pollution in the Illinois River watershed that was occurring as a result of poultry growers. Please explain how the agreement reduces pollution from poultry growers.

Runoff from poultry farms contribute to increased phosphorous levels in the Illinois River. The agreement imposed on Arkansas the requirement that it adopt a stringent phosphorous standard, which will necessarily require Arkansas to stringently regulate sources of phosphorous, such as poultry farms, in order to meet that standard.

27. You stated that Oklahoma's phosphorus standard was not being enforced on the Arkansas side of the border prior to your 2013 Agreement. Are you aware that, in April of 2009, the EPA required the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to ensure that the discharge permit for the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority include an enforceable final effluent limitation for phosphorus stringent enough to meet Oklahoma's phosphorus water standard by June 30, 2012, and that the final NPDES permit for Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority issued by Arkansas included that requirement? Given the fact that Oklahoma's phosphorus standard was being enforced in Arkansas prior to your 2013 agreement, please explain the benefit to Oklahoma from entering into the agreement.

However, upon reviewing it, I note that Arkansas reserved the right to revise the 0.1 mg/l phosphorus permit limit ("The Department reserves the right to revise the permit limit of 0.1 mg/l for Total Phosphorus upon submission of data which indicates that a Total Phosphorus limit other than 0.1 mg/l is appropriate"). Further, I am aware that Arkansas continued to dispute the validity of Oklahoma's t0.037 mg/ limit, a dispute that is now resolved with Arkansas agreeing that 0.037 mg/l phosphorus standard is appropriate. That agreement greatly benefits Oklahoma.

28. It appears that the last call or meeting that EPA has on the long delayed TMDL for the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller watersheds occurred on November 14, 2013. Please explain how your 2013 Agreement is related to the TMDL or cleanup of Lake Tenkiller. What steps have you taken with the U.S. EPA to encourage completion of the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller TMDLs and oppose further delay?

I would certainly encourage the EPA to fulfill any obligations it might have to complete those TMDLs, but I have not taken any legal actions to force the EPA to do so.

29. What steps have you taken to implement and enforce the 0.037 mg/L criterion for phosphorus pollution just approved by the Scenic Rivers Joint Commission in Oklahoma? What measures has Arkansas agreed to in light of the study results?

I have not personally taken any steps to implement or enforce that water quality standard, because the authority to do so is vested in Oklahoma's environmental regulators, such as the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

30. In 1992 the US Supreme Court in Arkansas v Oklahoma, 503 U.S. 91 (1992), resolved a lawsuit between Oklahoma and Arkansas related to water pollution in the Illinois River and held that upriver states must comply with water quality standards that are adopted by downriver states and approved by EPA. After that Supreme Court decision, effective July 1, 2002, Oklahoma adopted a nutrient criterion for total phosphorous of .037 mg/l for all Oklahoma water bodies designated as Scenic Rivers, codified at Oklahoma Administrative Code 785:45-5-19(c)(2). This new water quality standard had a ten year phase in period before full compliance was required on June 30, 2012. EPA approved Oklahoma's .037 mg/l phosphorous standard, as codified at Oklahoma Administrative Code 785:45-5-19(c)(2), on December 29, 2003.

a. Given this history, do you agree that as of July 1, 2012 Oklahoma's .037 mg/l phosphorous standard was in effect and was binding on upriver states such as Arkansas?

b. More specifically, do you agree that as of July 1, 2012 compliance with Oklahoma's .037 mg/l phosphorous standard was required for the portion of the Illinois River in Arkansas?

c. If you do not agree that as of July 1, 2012 compliance with Oklahoma's .037 mg/l phosphorous standard was required for the portion of the Illinois River in Arkansas, please explain the legal basis for your disagreement.

Oklahoma water quality standards do not automatically apply to upstream dischargers in other states. In 1992, in Arkansas v. Oklahoma, a case that pre-dated Arkansas' authorization to carry out its own Clean Water Act permitting program, the Supreme Court held that it was in EPA's discretion to issue a permit for a publicly owned treatment plant in Fayetteville, Arkansas that required compliance with downstream (Oklahoma) water quality standards. The Court took no position regarding when the Clean Water Act compelled such compliance, only that it was reasonable for EPA to assume that a section 401 water quality certification applied to federally issued NPDES permits. Please note that section 401 applies only to federal permits and as such would not apply to an Arkansas permit now that Arkansas is an authorized state. Under 40 CFR 131.10 state water quality standards are supposed to ensure "attainment and maintenance" of standards applicable to downstream states, but EPA is the arbiter of that when it approves state standards. Under section 402(b) of the Clean Water Act a state that is downstream of an authorized state gets notice of permits

and the opportunity to file recommendations, but has no veto authority. Under section 402(d) of the CWA, EPA has the authority to review state issued permits and impose additional conditions. Interpreting this section, in International Paper Co. v. Ouellette, 479 U.S. 481, 493, 490-91 (1987) , the Supreme Court found that the only law applicable to a point source in an authorized state is the law of the source state. A downstream state is subordinate to a source state and its only recourse it to ask EPA to veto or condition a permit.

31. Please identify any investigations and/or lawsuits the Office of Attorney General initiated after January 17, 2011 to address groundwater contamination associated with swine animal feeding operations and any publicly available data in your possession regarding levels of groundwater contamination at any swine animal feeding operations, as well as any communications that the Office of Attorney General has had with the owners or operators of swine animal feeding operations after January 17, 2011.

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture regulates Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and swine operations generally under the Oklahoma Agriculture and Environmental codes. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General already had several large swine feeding operations under Consent Decree or Settlement Agreement by the time I took office in 2011. (Hanor Roberts & Seaboard Foods, for example) The terms of those Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements required the swine operations to make regular reports to the Department of Agriculture and the Office of the Attorney General. These reports included monitoring well data, lagoon data and other terms to be carried out by the operators pursuant to the agreements. My office has continued to monitor these operations to confirm compliance with the Consent Decree and Settlement Agreements.

Senator Cardin:

1. Please provide your definition of EPA's "activist agenda" as stated on your professional biography on the State of Oklahoma's official website. Please provide a list of all environmental laws and regulations that you consider to comprise the federal agency's "activist agenda" and how each environmental law or regulation listed in response to this question meets this definition.

I firmly believe that the EPA has a vital role, but it must do so within the bounds of its legal authority. The actions undertaken by the Office of Attorney General have been out of concern that EPA had exceeded its legal authority in those specific actions, not out of animosity toward the mission of the Agency or any specific regulation or statute. Regulations that are not on solid legal foundation and that cannot survive judicial review will not result in environmental protections.

2. For what purpose other than to handle the State of Oklahoma's legal challenges against the EPA did you create the Federalism Unit and defund the Environmental Protection Unit?

The Federalism Unit within the Attorney General's Office serves to protect the State of Oklahoma's sovereign interests in our republican form of government, with a particular focus on issues related to the vertical and horizontal separation of powers demanded by our Constitution. It is headed by the Solicitor General. With regard to the environmental protection unit, it is misleading to say that it was "defunded." Consistent with the practice of every Attorney General save one, I determined that a standalone unit was operationally inefficient. I opted to combine the Environmental Protection Unit and the Consumer Protection Unit into a single unit called the "Public Protection Unit." The Public Protection Unit continued the work of the Environmental Protection Unit, and that work continues to this day, headed by the very same attorney who worked in the Environmental Protection Unit under the prior Attorney General.

3. Do you intend to create a Federalism Unit within the EPA similar to Oklahoma's? Explain why or why not.

My understanding is that the Department of Justice, working in coordination with the EPA Office of General Counsel, represents EPA in litigation, and would thus serve to protect such federalism related interests.

4. Would you support budget cuts to the EPA in similar scope (10% or higher) to those made to Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality appropriations since FY2009[1]?

I am not familiar with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's budget. I have no first-hand knowledge of EPA's development of its FY 2018 budget request. If confirmed, I look forward to working with EPA's budget staff and program offices and officials with the Office of Management and Budget on EPA's request. I will work to ensure that the limited resources appropriated to EPA by Congress are managed wisely in pursuit of that important mission and in accordance with all applicable legal authorities.

5. Of the lawsuits filed against the EPA in which you participated personally and substantially as Attorney General for Oklahoma, do you intend to recuse yourself from decision making regarding litigation in which you represented the State of Oklahoma as an adversarial party? Do you intend to recuse yourself for the entirety of each case?

As a lawyer, I am bound by the rules of professional conduct not to "switch sides" in any litigation in which I represented the State of Oklahoma, unless my former client gives its informed consent.

6. Do you believe the State of Oklahoma and the EPA should be regarded as the same or different "clients" for conflicts of interest purposes? Explain why or why not.

The State of Oklahoma and the federal government are separate sovereign authorities; representing one does not entail representing the other. In addition, while the State of Oklahoma has been my client as a lawyer during my service as Attorney General, if confirmed as EPA Administrator I will not be acting as a lawyer with clients.

7. The American Bar Association (ABA) Model Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.1, Special Conflicts Of Interest for Former and Current Government Officers and Employees, Comment 5 discusses the balancing of interests. On the one hand, where the successive clients are a government agency and another client, public or private, the risk exists that power or discretion vested in that agency might be used for the special benefit of the other client. A lawyer should not be in a position where benefit to the other client might affect performance of the lawyer's professional functions on behalf of the government. Also, unfair advantage could accrue to the other client by reason of access to confidential government information about the client's adversary obtainable only through the lawyer's government service. In the spirit of Rule 1.11, what previous lawsuits

[1] http://okpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016_Budget_Highlights.pdf?997616#page=7&x42044

might affect your performance of the Administrator's professional functions on behalf of the EPA?

Because I will follow the guidance of ethics officials and my own professional responsibilities in determining whether and how to participate in a particular matter, I do not expect any previous lawsuits to adversely affect my performance as EPA Administrator if confirmed.

8. On the other hand, the rules governing lawyers presently or formerly employed by a government agency should not be so restrictive as to inhibit transfer of employment to and from the government. The government has a legitimate need to attract qualified lawyers as well as to maintain high ethical standards. Thus a former government lawyer is disqualified only from particular matters in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially. The provisions for screening and waiver in paragraph (b) are necessary to prevent the disqualification rule from imposing too severe a deterrent against entering public service. The limitation of disqualification in paragraphs (a)(2) and (d)(2) to matters involving a specific party or parties, rather than extending disqualification to all substantive issues on which the lawyer worked, serves a similar function. Please provide a list of federal lawsuits filed against the EPA in which you participated personally and substantially as Attorney General for Oklahoma.

As Attorney General of Oklahoma, I have participated personally and substantially in the following suits against the EPA:

- **EME Homer City Generation v. EPA, No. 12-1182 (U.S.S.C.)**
- **Michigan v. EPA, No. 14-46 (U.S.S.C.)**
- **Murray Energy Corp. v. EPA, Nos. 14-1112, 14-1151 (D.C. Cir.)**
- **Murray Energy Corp. v. EPA, Nos. 15-1385, 15-1392, 15-1490, 15-1491 & 15-1494 (D.C. Cir.)**
- **Oklahoma v. EPA, Nos.12–9526, 12–9527 (10th Cir.)**
- **Oklahoma ex rel. Pruitt v. EPA, No. 16-5038 (10th Cir.).**
- **Oklahoma ex rel. Pruitt v. McCarthy, No. 15-cv-369 (N.D. Okla.).**
- **Oklahoma v EPA, No, 13-cv-00726 (W.D. Okla.)**
- **West Virginia v. EPA, No. 14-1146 (D.C. Cir.)**
- **West Virginia v. EPA, No. 16-1264 (D.C. Cir.)**

9. Do you accept a screen is appropriate for EPA strategic decisions specific to those lawsuits in which you represented an adversarial party? Explain why or why not.

I will consult with relevant ethics officials and review relevant rules of professional conduct to determine whether a screen is appropriate in a particular matter.

10. Comment 5 discusses a lawyer who moves between different government entities. When a lawyer has been employed by one government agency and then

moves to a second government agency, it may be appropriate to treat that second agency as another client for purposes of this Rule, as when a lawyer is employed by a city and subsequently is employed by a federal agency. However, because the conflict of interest is governed by paragraph (d), the latter agency is not required to screen the lawyer as paragraph (b) requires a law firm to do. The question of whether two government agencies should be regarded as the same or different clients for conflict of interest purposes is beyond the scope of these Rules. Do you believe two government agencies—the State of Oklahoma and the EPA—should be regarded as the same or different "clients" for conflicts of interest purposes? Explain why or why not.

As explained above, the State of Oklahoma and the federal government are separate sovereign authorities. While the State of Oklahoma was my client as a lawyer, if confirmed as EPA Administrator I will not be acting as a lawyer with clients.

11.How might the spirit of Rule 1.11's conflicts of interest provisions apply if those government entities were adversarial parties to a lawsuit?

If two government entities are adversarial parties to a lawsuit, then under ABA Model Rule 1.11 a lawyer's previous representation of one entity in the litigation will preclude his later representation of the other entity in the same litigation, unless the former client gives its informed consent. As explained above, if confirmed as EPA Administrator I will not be acting as a lawyer with clients.

12.ABA Rule 1.7 Conflict Of Interest: Current Clients provides that a "lawyer shall not represent a client if the representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest. A concurrent conflict of interest exists if the representation of one client will be directly adverse to another client; or there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer." In the spirit of Rule 1.7, do you reasonably believe that you will be able to provide competent and diligent leadership to the EPA, an agency you "don't like" and have sued several times? Explain why or why not.

I will provide diligent and competent leadership to the EPA if confirmed as Administrator. As I explained in my testimony to the Committee, I am a firm believer in the EPA's mission to protect the environment and look forward to the opportunity to lead the agency to help provide our future generations with a better and healthier environment.

13.Please explain how your litigation position in each case is or is not at odds with the mission of the EPA, to protect human health protect human health and the environment—air, water, and land.

The EPA's mission is defined by the laws passed by Congress granting it the authority to act. Any action by the EPA that exceeds the authority granted to it by Congress, by definition, cannot be consistent with the Agency's mission. In each case filed against the EPA, in the view of the State of Oklahoma, the EPA had acted in excess of the authority granted to it by Congress.

14. Do you accept that EPA, state, local and tribal agencies work together to ensure compliance with environmental laws passed by Congress, state legislatures and tribal governments?

I agree it is essential for the federal government, state governments, and tribal governments to work together to provide the environmental protection that our laws demand and that the American people deserve. As I explained in my testimony to the Committee, I strongly support cooperative federalism. If confirmed, I will make every effort to partner with the EPA's counterparts in state, local, and tribal governments to further these goals.

15. In 2005, former Attorney General Drew Edmondson filed a federal lawsuit in 2005 seeking to prohibit the spreading of chicken waste over land in the Illinois River Basin in northeastern Oklahoma. Companies named in *State of Oklahoma v. Tyson Foods Inc.* (No. 4:05-cv-00329) include Tyson Foods Inc., Tyson Poultry Inc., Tyson Chicken Inc., Cobb-Vantress Inc., Cal-Maine Foods Inc., Cargill Inc., Cargill Turkey Production L.L.C., George's Inc., George's Farms Inc., Peterson Farms Inc., Simmons Foods Inc., Cal-Maine Farms Inc. and Willow Brook Foods Inc. On December 9, 2015, the State of Oklahoma filed brief amici curiae along with 21 other states in support of the petitioners in *American Farm Bureau Federation v. EPA* (No. 15-599). The *Tyson Foods* defendants did not participate in the Bay TMDL lawsuit, and the American Farm Bureau was not a party to the Oklahoma suit. However, Tyson Foods Inc., headquartered in Springdale, Arkansas—the largest poultry producing company in the world—is a member of the Arkansas Farm Bureau. Do you accept that the American Farm Bureau, a national organization, represents the interests of the Arkansas Farm Bureau and its members, including Tyson Foods? Explain why or why not.

It is my understanding that the American Farm Bureau Federation is a distinct corporate entity from the Arkansas Farm Bureau, which is a distinct corporate entity from Tyson Foods. Accordingly, I do not believe one can ignore corporate form and conflate the American Farm Bureau Federation with either the Arkansas Farm Bureau or Tyson Foods. I observe that the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau filed suit against EPA in the challenge to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL on its own behalf, notwithstanding the fact that American Farm Bureau Federation also was a plaintiff.

16. In 2013, despite the lack of a verdict in the *Tyson Foods* case, you added the State of Oklahoma to the American Farm Bureau/poultry industry backed lawsuit

against the EPA's efforts to enforce a TMDL to restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. You sided with the American Farm Bureau, the Fertilizer Institute, the National Chicken Council, the National Pork Producers Council and other farming interests. The lawsuit claimed EPA was exceeding its authority in enforcing "total maximum daily load," or TMDL, standards in Chesapeake Bay, limitations on nitrogen, phosphorus and sediments. In what ways did you balance the interests of your client, the State of Oklahoma, as Counsel for Amicus Curiae in *American Farm Bureau* while *Tyson Foods*, in which you represented the State of Oklahoma as Plaintiff, was ongoing?

These are two different lawsuits regarding different parties and different matters. There also is no issue conflict because the issues raised in the two lawsuits also are distinct.

17. In 2016, more than six years after arguments concluded in *Tyson Foods*, there has been no final ruling from U.S. District Court Judge Gregory K. Frizzell. Do you find the six-year delay in *Tyson Foods* to be acceptable or reasonable, and if so, why?

It would not be appropriate for me as an attorney to comment on the acceptableness or reasonableness of the actions of a judge before whom the Office of the Attorney General has a pending case.

18. Please provide a list of all confidential government documents related to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL to which you would not have access but for your status as counsel to the State of Oklahoma as amicus curiae in *American Farm Bureau*.

I am not aware of any such documents. A request for such documents can be made to the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

19. If the Supreme Court were to grant certiorari in *American Farm Bureau*, or a case like it challenging the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, how would you direct the EPA as Administrator to rigorously defend its own rule?

Any TMDL should be a cooperative effort. If confirmed as EPA Administrator and if the litigation challenging the Chesapeake Bay TMDL reached the Supreme Court during my time in office, I would expect to consult with the States and other interested stakeholders about the issues raised in such litigation.

20. In what ways did you balance the interests of your client, the State of Oklahoma, as Amicus Curiae in *American Farm Bureau* and as Plaintiff in *Tyson Foods*?

These are two different lawsuits regarding different parties and different matters. As Attorney General of Oklahoma, I represent the interests of the State of Oklahoma when I seek to ensure that federal law is followed such that Oklahoma retains its sovereign authority to regulate where federal law allows such state regulation..

21.Do you accept that the Chesapeake Bay TMDL could still fail to significantly reduce pollution flowing to the Chesapeake Bay if the EPA steps back from its role in holding states accountable for their cleanup commitments? Explain why or why not.

It is my understanding that recent quality data shows that the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay is improving. Further, it is my understanding that the United States Geological Survey and other researchers have found that the time lag between measures taken on the ground and water quality response can be years, decades or even longer. Accordingly, today's improvements in water quality are likely the result of measures taken before the effective date of the Bay TMDL. These measures, as well as state plans to require treatment plants upgrades that also pre-date the effective date of the Bay TMDL, will continue to improve water quality. That said, the Bay TMDL represents a cooperative effort of all states in the watershed and EPA has a role in overseeing its implementation.

22.The TMDL approach hinges on numeric water quality standards that set a qualitative number for pollution limits, rather than a qualitative description of how healthy waters should be. As Administrator, how would you promote effective numeric standards?

I agree with the Mach 2011 nutrient framework issued by the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water entitled "Working in Partnership with States to Address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions," which prioritizes state action to encourage on the ground activities over establishment of numeric nutrient limits. According to the State of Florida, based on their experience with the imposition of federal numeric nutrient limits, controversy over the validity of a number can actually delay pollutant reduction activities, delaying water quality improvements.

23.In the Mississippi River watershed, the Obama Administration defended a lawsuit against the EPA from environmentalists seeking numeric nutrient criteria. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana ruled in favor of the EPA, finding "Presumably, there is a point in time at which the agency will have abused its great discretion by refusing to concede that the current approach [...] is simply not going to work." But for now, "EPA is entitled to judgment as a

matter of law in its favor." As Administrator, would you continue to waste resources on a qualitative, voluntary approach?

I was not involved in the litigation your reference, and am not familiar with the details of the case.

24. As Administrator, do you intend to make enforcement of the Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan a priority? How? Do you acknowledge that it will be even more difficult to make progress without EPA?

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL has been upheld by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. If confirmed, I will continue to enforce the law and will continue EPA's leadership role as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council. I agree that progress would be difficult without a collaborative process.

25. Would you deny the political will in the states of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to protect the Bay?

I would listen to the views of all interested stakeholders including the States.

26. In a 2013 speech, you said "There are issues with respect to clean water and air that cross state lines. There is a role, and I think it's important for conservatives, for us to recognize, that though I don't like the EPA [...] I think it's not good for us to say that the EPA doesn't have any role." How would you characterize the EPA's role in mediating cross-state air and water pollution disputes?

I certainly agree that EPA plays a leadership role in mediating cross-state air and water pollution disputes.

27. In 1992, the Supreme Court held in *Arkansas v. Oklahoma* (No. 90-1262), a case challenging the EPA's issuance of a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to a publicly owned treatment plant in Fayetteville, Arkansas for a discharge into a river flowing into Oklahoma, that the Clean Water Act authorizes the EPA to require that point sources in upstream states not violate water quality standards in downstream states.[2] Is the EPA interpreting this Supreme Court precedent correctly? If not, how would you change its interpretation through NPDES?

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[2] https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-01/documents/waterpollution-ludwiszewski-memo.pdf

Arkansas v. Oklahoma involved an EPA-issued permit because at the time of the litigation the Fayetteville wastewater treatment plant began operation Arkansas did not have an approved state permitting program. Oklahoma is authorized to implement its own NPDES permitting program, in lieu of the federal program. As such, I am not familiar with how EPA is applying Arkansas v. Oklahoma when it issues permits in the handful of states without such approved permitting programs.

28. After the *Arkansas* decision, you agreed to a three-year delay in 2012 to allow for an independent study of the science behind the standard. What specific factors motivated your decision to delay enforcement of Oklahoma's standard?

The "Second Statement of Joint Principles and Actions" that Oklahoma entered into with Arkansas in 2012 actually required that "[t]he States, through the appropriate Parties, will continue to require existing point source dischargers to the Illinois River Watershed with a design capacity of greater than 1 MGD to operate under existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permits reflecting an effluent limit for total phosphorus of not more than I mg/L based upon a 30 day average, assuming the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not object" and likewise required that "Parties for both States will continue cooperative efforts to improve and protect water quality in the Scenic Rivers."

29. Please provide all communications you had had with representatives of agricultural and other companies regarding water quality litigation between Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Such communications can be requested from the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General through a request made to that office pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

30. Do you commit to fully apply and enforce the Good Neighbor provision if confirmed as EPA Administrator?

Yes. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will exercise my authority in this area consistent with Congress's intent in enacting the Act. Specifically with respect to Section 110(a)(2)(D) and the "good neighbor" obligations of Section 110, I intend to engage in a transparent process that will allow states to have a meaningful opportunity to understand their obligations with regard to reducing emissions that cause or contribute to nonattainment or interference with maintenance in other states through the SIP process and to act consistent with my authority under Section 110(c) if states fail to do so.

31. What is your understanding of the role of climate change in algal blooms?

EPA identifies the following as causes of harmful algal blooms: sunlight, slow-moving water, and excess nutrients. For climate change to have a role, it would first have to have an impact on one of these three causes.

32.Please provide a list of water treatment plants under consent order from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality during your tenure as Attorney General. Please identity funding sources other than federal funding that are available to bring these treatment plants into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

This question should be directed to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, as I have no personal knowledge of such matters.

33.Of the 1,677 public water supplies under the purview of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, 19 had recent elevated detections of lead in March, 2016. Please describe any action you took to address lead contamination as Attorney General.

As the question indicates, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality as opposed to the Office of Attorney General has primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma.

34.When more than 10 percent of tap water samples in a local system contain lead levels of at least 15 parts per billion, the state steps in to review the water system's treatment for corrosive properties and update the sampling schedule as necessary. How have budget cuts to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality impacted sampling?

I have no personal knowledge of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's budget, or how any budget cuts may have impacted that office.

35.EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood. Lead is harmful to health, especially for children. Do you accept that there is no safe level of lead in a child's blood?

I am concerned about the health of children. I have not myself reviewed the scientific studies correlating blood lead levels to impacts in children. However, it is my understanding that neither EPA nor CDC have identified a "safe" level of exposure, but instead have adopted levels appropriate for action under their specific statutory authorities.

36. Please provide any information relating to enforcement actions for Lead and Copper Rule violations undertaken during your tenure as Attorney General for Oklahoma.

Such enforcement actions would have been undertaken by Oklahoma's environmental and water regulators, at agencies like the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality or the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. This question should be directed to those agencies so that can describe to you the relevant actions taken by the State of Oklahoma.

37. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires EPA to establish and enforce standards that public drinking water systems must follow. EPA delegates primary enforcement responsibility (also called primacy) for public water systems to states and tribes if they meet certain requirements. In a letter to Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment Gary Sherrer, EPA Regional Administer Ron Curry said the State had until June 1, 2013 to fully implement the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rules. Please provide all information related to Oklahoma's primacy under the Public Water System Supervision Program during your tenure as Attorney General.

As your question indicates, such matters would be within the purview of Oklahoma's environmental regulators, not the Office of Attorney of General.

38. Do you concur that persistent drinking water safety problems indicate the need to strengthen, not weaken, the federal law designed to ensure the safety of Americans' drinking water? Explain why or why not.

I believe that persistent drinking water problems largely stem from a failure to comply with current laws and regulations. If confirmed, I will work to increase compliance with the law, which will require effective enforcement and oversight, technical assistance, and infrastructure improvements. It also may require changes to existing regulations to improve oversight tools and eliminate ambiguities that lead to compliance issues.

39. At the same time, deteriorated lead paint and elevated levels of lead-contaminated house dust are present in an estimated 24 million U.S. houses, according the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The long-term effects that lead poisoning can cause include learning disabilities, hyperactivity, impaired hearing and brain damage. Infants and young children are most susceptible to lead poisoning. EPA's Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP Rule) requires that firms performing renovation, repair, and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities and pre-schools built before 1978 have their firm certified by EPA (or an EPA authorized State), use certified renovators who are trained by EPA-approved training providers and follow lead-safe work practices. Do you believe the RRP Rule should be a voluntary standard? Explain why or why not.

No. Oklahoma is an authorized state. The Oklahoma Lead-Based Paint Management Act designates the Department of Environmental Quality as the official agency for implementing the Lead-Based Paint Management Program.

40.EPA is addressing lead contamination and resulting hazards under these laws in many ways, including by issuing and enforcing regulations. Do you find this regulatory authority appropriate for EPA, and not the States? Why or why not.

It is appropriate for EPA to faithfully enforce federal law. With respect to the RRP rule, it is my understanding that there have been issues with EPA implementation of the RRP rule in states that are not authorized due to a delays in certifying firms.

41.Title IV of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as well as other authorities in the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, directs EPA to regulate lead-based paint hazards. As Administrator, how would you implement Title IV of TSCA?

Congress enacted both TSCA Title IV to create a national program to achieve the national goal of eliminating lead-based paint hazards from housing as expeditiously as possible and TSCA Title V to authorize the establishment of a state grant program to provide technical assistance on EPA environmental programs for schools and to implement school environmental health programs. If confirmed, I will faithfully discharge my responsibility to protect human health and the environment for all Americans with the highest possible dedication and commitment in accordance with the legal authorities established by Congress.

42.The CWA prohibits anyone from discharging pollutants, including lead, through a point source into a water of the United States unless they have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. As part of their water quality standards regulations, states and authorized tribes adopt ambient water quality criteria with sufficient coverage of parameters, such as lead, and of adequate stringency to protect the designated uses of their surface waters. What changes, if any, would you make to the NPDES permit?

I have not contemplated any changes to the NPDES permit program, if confirmed.

43.Please provide all confidential government information regarding the 2010 consent order with the Making Money Having Fun (MMHF, LLC), a coal combustion waste mine fill operator in Bokoshe, Oklahoma, that you obtained as Attorney General.

I did not become Attorney General until January 2011. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has responsibility for administering and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma, along with other agencies like the Water Resources Board and the Corporation Commission. Those agencies may be able to provide you information about the 2010 consent order your reference.

44.The EPA finalized the first federal coal ash disposal rules in 2015, but the rules did not include any direct mechanism to implement or enforce the rules. Now, Congress has provided the mechanism in S. 612-114th, the WINN Act, which was passed with bipartisan support. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also issued a press release stating his approval of several of the bill's provisions, including the coal ash language. As you may know, if states create a coal ash permitting program, or amend their current programs to incorporate federal standards and get EPA approval, they will be able to implement the rules themselves. If they do not, the EPA is directed either put into place a federal permitting system, or have the authority to directly enforce the requirement. Do you intend to enforce the coal ash language in S. 612-114th, the WINN Act, that received bipartisan report?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress, including the WIIN Act provisions regarding coal ash.

45.Please provide an explanation of any modification you would make to the coal ash provision in S. 612-114th, the WINN Act.

I have not had occasion to review in depth this new statutory. Congress, not the Administrator of EPA, has authority to modify statutory language such as the coal ash provision in the WIIN Act. I do not at this time have any opinion whether Congress should modify the statute in question.

46.Kentucky is already in the process of working on regulations governing coal ash disposal. The state's proposal would modify the concept of "permit-by-rule," and allow utilities to build their own coal ash landfills or ponds without prior permitting or review by regulators. The utilities could be fined by regulators or sued by individuals for violations. Energy and Environment Cabinet spokesman John Mura has said the Cabinet believes this would qualify as a "permitting program" as required by the WINN Act. As Administrator, would you allow the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet's "permit by rule" program to qualify as a permitting program under the bipartisan WIIN Act? Why or why not?

I am not familiar with how Kentucky regulates coal ash disposal. It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge an issue that may come before me for decision if I am confirmed as Administrator. If the issue comes before me, I will ensure that the issue is fully and fairly considered with input from staff and in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

47. What is the goal of your lawsuit asking to strike down EPA's "Waters of the United States" rule under the CWA? What will the states be empowered to do that they can't do with the rule in place? (be specific)

The goal of the lawsuit I brought to advance the State of Oklahoma's interest in protecting its regulatory authority is to have the courts vacate the WOTUS rule. If the WOTUS rule is vacated, we will return the status quo, and the State of Oklahoma's sovereign authority to regulate waters within its border will not be diminished.

48. The brief filed on behalf of states argues that states need to "protect" waters. Are you aware of the legal concept under the Clean Water Act that provides for states to be more protective than the Clean Water Act, not less—that the Act sets a minimum standard of protection and cleanliness?

The state brief filed in the WOTUS case argues that the WOTUS rule fails to recognize the limits on federal authority that Congress adopted when it enacted the CWA over forty years ago. Under the Act, Congress "chose to 'recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of States . . . to plan the development and use . . . of land and water resources.'" Solid Waste Agency of N. Cook Cnty. v. U.S. Army Corps of Eng'rs, 531 U.S. 159, 174 (2001) ("SWANCC") (quoting 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b)). As noted in the state brief: "The Rule likewise reaches and even exceeds the outer bounds of Congress's constitutional authority. The Rule's expansion of federal authority over intrastate waters will "impinge[] o[n] the States' traditional and primary power over land and water use," and "readjust the federal-state balance." SWANCC, 531 U.S. at 174.The Rule's coverage of intermittent waters, ephemeral waters, and isolated sometimes-wet lands "presses the envelope of constitutional validity," Rapanos, 547 U.S. at 738 (Scalia, J., plurality) (citation omitted), far more than the challenged agency actions in Rapanos and SWANCC. That is, states have exclusive, not additional, authority over all land and non-navigable, wholly intrastate waters.

49. Do you believe that states should be free to allow more pollution or fewer waters to be protected from pollution and development than described in the Waters of the United States Rule?

The litigation brought by the states was premised on a concern that EPA had exceeded its statutory authority as established by Congress. Additionally, the WOTUS rule is a jurisdictional rule, not a substantive rule as your question suggests.

50.Are there waters that you believe should not be protected under the Clean Water Act? What specifically are they? Why do you think that the rule covers those waters now? Why do you think they should not be protected?

As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, I believe that the Clean Water Act regulates more than navigable waters. But, it does not regulate all waters. How much more would best be answered by Congress. Absent Congressional action, it is the role of EPA to seek to provide clarity on the scope of federal jurisdiction. What that is has to be determined and assessed through notice and comment rulemaking. The WOTUS rule exceeded the authority granted by Congress by allowing federal regulation of land if rainwater collects on the surface and seeps into the ground or if rainwater runs over the land as ephemeral flows. It also exceeded CWA authority by regulating isolated ponds and wetlands. Such non-navigable, wholly intrastate water should be protected, as appropriate, under state, not federal, law. For example, isolated bodies of water have not been subject to federal regulation since the 2001 Supreme Court decision in SWANCC struck down earlier agency attempts to expand federal jurisdiction beyond the limits of the Act. The WOTUS rule would reverse that decision and regulate the same waters that the Supreme Court has already said are subject to exclusive state regulation.

51.In your lawsuit against the Clean Water Rule you argue against what you perceive as an undue federal intrusion on local control of decisions about water quality. You have also argued that cities in towns in Oklahoma should not be able to control their water quality by issuing local regulations for the activities of oil and gas companies. How is your stance in favor of local control under the Clean Water Act consistent with your position against local control when it comes to the water polluting activities of oil and gas companies? What legal underpinning is there for that difference?

State concerns regarding the WOTUS rule are based on the limitations on federal authority under the Clean Water Act. Oklahoma concerns over the regulation of commercial activities including oil and gas company operations by local governments are based on the limitations of local authority under state law and federal law. Respect for the rule of law underpins both concerns, and both seek to ensure that laws enacted by the relevant legislatures—Congress on one hand, the Oklahoma Legislature on the other—are followed.

52.Wetland ecosystems provide significant environmental and economic benefits to American citizens including water purification, flood and erosion control, and

habitat for wildlife and commercial fish species. In fact, over fifty percent of commercial fish and shellfish stocks in the Southeastern United States rely on coastal wetlands. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act protects wetland ecosystems by regulating the discharge of dredging and fill material. If confirmed, what is your plan to improve the biological condition of wetlands?

If confirmed, I will take care to faithfully execute all environmental laws enacted by Congress, including Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

53.As of 2014 Oklahoma had nearly 14,000 miles of rivers and nearly 1,000 square miles of lakes that are so polluted they don't meet the state's water quality standards. That's approximately 42% of all the delineated stream miles in Oklahoma, and almost 1,600 of those were added during your time as Attorney General. Only 107 miles of rivers in Oklahoma – about a third of one percent – were classified as meeting Oklahoma's water quality standards. The other 58% are classified as having insufficient data to enable the state to say they're meeting state standards. As Oklahoma's Attorney General, what did your office do to ensure that the companies were complying with the state's clean water laws?

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board have primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma. Such questions should be directed to those environmental regulators.

54.How many water pollution enforcement actions did your office file, and how many of those resulted in orders to halt or reduce pollution discharges? Please provide a comprehensive list.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board have primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma. Those agencies are thus best situated to provide a comprehensive list of enforcement actions take by the State of Oklahoma. The Office of Attorney General has on occasion assisted those environmental regulators by providing legal representation in cases under the CWA for pollution to groundwater, streams and other waterways. Other cases included pollution that caused fish kills and CERCLA Superfund sites that damaged Oklahoma groundwater and or streams. Those cases are EPA, States of Oklahoma & Texas v Mahard Egg Farm; EPA, State of Oklahoma v. Doe Run Mining et al.; ODWC v. Kent Feeds; ODWC v. Southern Towing; State Of Oklahoma, ODWC v Kelco Manufacturing; and State of Oklahoma & Cherokee Nation v. Sequoyah Fuels Corp.

55.President Reagan's EPA adopted the "Stream Buffer Zone" rule to protect streams, and the Obama administration has replaced that rule with the "Stream Protection Rule." Do you think Reagan's rule was a more straightforward way to

protect streams? Why or why not? What specifically about it was more "straightforward?"

The stream buffer zone rule and stream protection rule are not EPA rules. They were issued by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement of the Department of the Interior.

56.The American Society of Civil Engineers states that decrepit, decades-old municipal wastewater systems are at fault for the discharge of 900 billion gallons of untreated sewage and wastewater into U.S. waterways each year, enough to cover New York City under a layer 127 feet deep. According to a New York Times report, municipal sewer systems are the nation's biggest violators of the U.S. Clean Water Act, and more than one-third of them have violated pollution laws at least once since 2006. This worn-out, faulty infrastructure requires new investments in order to protect public health and the environment. As the leader of the Agency in charge of protecting human health and US waterways, how will you help states and municipalities modernize their wastewater infrastructure?

If confirmed, I will continue support for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds and the new Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act loan program. In addition, I would continue to implement EPA's Integrated Planning Framework to provide municipalities with flexibility to prioritize actions they take to come into compliance.

57.The American Society of Civil Engineers states that decrepit, decades-old municipal wastewater systems are at fault for the discharge of 900 billion gallons of untreated sewage and wastewater into U.S. waterways each year, enough to cover New York City under a layer 127 feet deep. According to a New York Times report, municipal sewer systems are the nation's biggest violators of the U.S. Clean Water Act, and more than one-third of them have violated pollution laws at least once since 2006. This worn-out, faulty infrastructure requires new investments in order to protect public health and the environment. As the leader of the Agency in charge of protecting human health and US waterways, how will you help states and municipalities modernize their wastewater infrastructure?

If confirmed, I will continue support for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds and the new Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act loan program. In addition, I would continue to implement EPA's Integrated Planning Framework to provide municipalities with flexibility to prioritize actions they take to come into compliance.

58.Given the President-elect's concerns about EPA's slow and inadequate response to lead in drinking water problems and the lack of adequate testing, what specifically would you do to prevent a Flint-like disaster from happening elsewhere?

If confirmed, I will focus EPA's resources and attention on its core missions, including ensuring safe drinking water.

59. Would you commit to undertaking stronger EPA oversight and enforcement of drinking water rules, such as stronger enforcement of the lead and copper rule that wasn't enforced in Flint, MI?

Yes.

60. What specific lessons did you draw from the Flint, MI tragedy, regarding EPA's proper role in overseeing the States' administration of delegated federal programs?

I believe that EPA staff should be encouraged to notify their managers when they identify issues and managers must take those issues seriously when brought to their attention. I agree with the assessments of others that the Flint tragedy was a failure at every level of government, but I am particularly disturbed that EPA did not take action until long after they became aware of the elevated lead levels in Flint drinking water.

61. What are your views on when EPA should step in to take enforcement or emergency action where a state is authorized to administer a program under one of the federal environmental laws but is failing its duty to protect the public?

If confirmed, I will follow the process outlined in section 1414 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as recently amended in section 2106 of the WIIN Act, to notify persons of elevated lead levels in their drinking water and will carry out the recommendations of the EPA Inspector General in his October 2016 Management Alert to update the guidance on Safe Drinking Water Act emergency authority and require training on the use of that authority.

62. Did EPA do an adequate job in the instance of the lead crisis in Flint, MI? If not, what specifically would you do differently?

No. If confirmed and faced with a similar situation, I would inform the state that EPA will take action if they fail to do so, and use EPA's emergency authority if the state fails to act.

63. How specifically would you strengthen EPA's lead and copper rule for drinking water to ensure, as Mr. Trump suggested, that water is adequately tested and treated before children are exposed to lead?

It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge the outcome of a matter that may come before me if confirmed as Administrator. If confirmed I would request a full briefing by EPA staff on potential revisions consistent with EPA legal authorities.

64.House Republican leadership said in 2016 that EPA should get new lead-in-water rules proposed as soon as possible, and criticized the agency for being too slow when it promised to get them out by 2017. By what date would you commit to get a new rule issued? How would you ensure that final improvements to this rule are issued and implemented quickly?

If confirmed, I will make issuing revisions to the Safe Drinking Water Act Lead and Copper Rule a priority. As I am not at the Agency, I do not know what is the soonest feasible date.

65.An independent advisory group of experts including state regulators and water industry representatives recommended to EPA that all old lead service lines that pump water into homes from water mains should be replaced. The water utility trade associations support this. Do you support that recommendation? In your view, what would be the best way to pay for these replacements—Congressional Appropriations, issuance of debt by cities and states, a combination, or other? Please explain.

It is my understanding that, if properly implemented, corrosion control treatment of water protects public health from exposure to lead from lead service lines. EPA's highest priority should be to ensure that this treatment is being properly employed. Replacement of lead service lines is a long term goal that municipalities should incorporate into their capital improvement plans, which are generally implemented through state and local funds. Federal assistance through the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the new WIFIA program can provide additional assistance.

66.Do you agree that removing lead from gasoline was an important and successful EPA rulemaking? Why or why not?

I have not evaluated this issue.

67.Lead has no safe level of human exposure, particularly for children. What actions will you take to require lead to be removed from children's environment to reduce their exposure to lead in air, water, soil, and paint?

If confirmed, I will faithfully carry out the authorities granted to EPA by Congress to reduce exposure to lead.

68.In March 2016 it was reported that 19 drinking water systems in Oklahoma had elevated lead levels. Of the 100 water systems with the highest self-reported lead levels between 2013 and 2015, seven are located in Oklahoma. One exceeded the federal action level by 1,175 parts per billion - many times greater than the amount of lead needed to cause the death of a fetus or spontaneous abortion, or

permanent severe developmental problems. As Oklahoma A.G., what specific actions did your office take to protect children against lead poisoning?

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board have primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma. Questions relating to actions taken by the State of Oklahoma with regard to lead in water systems should thus be directed to those environmental regulators.

69.How will you ensure that required evaluation of state drinking water primacy programs is conducted and how will you use EPA authority and resources to help states carry out their Safe Drinking Water Act primacy responsibilities?

If confirmed, I will focus on EPA's core missions, including oversight of state implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

70.Will you direct EPA to continue and follow up on findings from 2016 increased oversight of state implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act Lead and Copper Rule?

Yes.

71.What are your expectations for the 2017 Proposed Revisions to the Safe Drinking Water Act Lead and Copper Rule?

It is my understanding that EPA expects to issue that proposed rule in 2017.

72.In our conversation in my office, I asked for your thoughts on the Paris Agreement and the US commitment to the Paris Agreement. You pointed out that the Paris Agreement commitments are non-binding and when I asked you whether you thought the US should stay in the Paris Agreement you did not want to comment because you felt that the Paris Agreement is a matter handled in full by the State Department. Is that a fair characterization of your comments to me?

I believe I stated that a decision as to whether the U.S. stayed in the Paris Agreement would be a decision for the State Department.

73.Does that mean that you would advise the EPA to refrain from engaging with the State Department on US engagements with the UNFCCC and the execution process around the Paris Agreement?

Interagency cooperation is very important. Should the Administration decide to continue to participate in the Paris Agreement, and if I am confirmed as Administrator, I will collaborate with all involved agencies to ensure that commitments made on behalf of the United States are

achievable and consistent with requisite legal authorities delegated by Congress.

74.How does your position that EPA should ostensibly recuse itself from State Department responsibilities and engagements on the Paris Agreement comport with any plans that you, as the next EPA administrator, may execute to rescind or alter domestic policies that affect the US National Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement?

As I stated in a previous answer, should the State Department decide to continue to participate in the Paris Agreement and if I am confirmed as Administrator, I will work with all involved agencies to ensure that commitments made on behalf of the United States are achievable and consistent with requisite legal authorities delegated by Congress.

75.Recently at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed China's great interest in being the world's leader on a number of issues including action to address climate change. Do you believe it is the U.S.'s national interest to cede leadership to the Chinese on global action to address climate change?

It is the mission of the State Department to advance our national interests within the realm of foreign policy. If confirmed, I will work to advance the mission of the EPA, which is to protect human health and the environment, consistent with the State Department's strategy for international engagement on climate change.

76.Do you believe climate change is a real and serious threat to the planet?

The climate is changing and human activity impacts our changing climate in some manner. The ability to measure with precision the degree and extent of that impact, and what to do about it, are subject to continuing debate and dialogue.

77.Do you accept the scientific consensus that should average global temperatures reach or exceed +2 degrees Celsius that many regions of the world will very likely experience catastrophic changes in the environment that may very likely impact the safety and prosperity of many people?

- Do you believe that uncertainty in climate science warrants greater study before the U.S. takes significant action to reduce greenhouse gas pollution?
- If so, are you aware that the portion of the scientific community that claims there is uncertainty in the science is limited to limited to about 5% of climate science communities?
- If you believe that the very small portion of the world's climate science community who hold outlier opinions on the severity of climate change justifies inaction, why wouldn't you give similar credence to other outlying opinions in the

climate science community that hold that global average temperatures may exceed 10 degrees Celsius and that catastrophic events may occur as soon as five or ten years?

The climate is changing and human activity impacts our changing climate in some manner. The ability to measure with precision the degree and extent of that impact, and what to do about it, are subject to continuing debate and dialogue. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data.

78.Our ability to predict the weather has improved dramatically over the last 20 years with the advent of supercomputers, new satellite monitoring options, and vastly superior atmospheric models. But still floods, droughts, hurricanes and similar phenomena occur and cause damage with sometimes only limited warning. What precision of prediction do you require before you are willing to accept the scientific community's overwhelming consensus that unchecked increases in greenhouse gas emissions will very likely have catastrophic effects, many of which the National Climate Assessment has described in detail every 4 years since 1990?

The ability to measure with precision the degree and extent of human activity on our changing climate, and what to do about it, are subject to continuing debate and dialogue. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data.

79.Do you believe that science should guide our nation's environmental policy?

Congress has made it very clear in the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and other major environmental laws that the regulatory actions of the EPA should be based on the most up to date and objective scientific data. If confirmed, I will follow the directives of Congress to set science-based standards to protect the environment and human health.

80.What would have to change about our ability to predict the effect of increasing greenhouse gas emissions in Earth's atmosphere for you to consider it adequate?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data, including the ever-evolving understanding of the impact increasing greenhouse gases have on our changing climate.

81.Would you support making those changes in sufficient time to ward off any negative effects of increasing those emissions?

The ability to measure with precision the degree and extent of human activity on our changing climate, and what to do about it, are subject to continuing debate and dialogue. If confirmed, I will make sure the agency's regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data.

82. What is your scientific background and what expertise do you have in environmental science?

My degrees are in communications, political science, and law. As with prior EPA Administrators who held bachelor of arts degrees, I completed science courses as a prerequisite to requiring my degree. Also, I understand that six of the 12 people who have been confirmed as EPA Administrator (including the first four individuals) had law degrees.

83. How do you square your opinion that air regulation is a matter for the states and that EPA has limited authority to mandate regulation of air pollution, with the court's overwhelming opinions that EPA has exclusive authority to regulate air pollution including greenhouse gases?

The concept of cooperative federalism is a bedrock principle of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and other EPA-administered laws. Whether working to improve air quality, water quality or other important environmental objectives, Congress made achieving these a shared responsibility between the EPA and the states. If confirmed, I will respect the intention of Congress and relative statutory framework.

84. Given that you are one of the lead attorneys challenging the clean power plan, a regulation promulgated by EPA in part due to the court's decision in landmark cases that determining EPA authority and responsibility to regulate greenhouse gases for domestic sources, in you rescind the Clean Power Plan:

It is unclear what question is being asked.

85. What policies would you promulgate to replace the Clean Power Plan, which you would have to do to ensure the EPA is in compliance with the court orders to regulate greenhouse gases?

It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge an issue that may come before me for decision if I am confirmed as Administrator. If the issue comes before me, I will ensure that the issue is fully and fairly considered with input from staff, as part of a transparent process that seeks input from stakeholders, and that is consistent with EPA's statutory authorities.

86. What assurances will you give the public that your proposed replacement rules will withstand the tests established in the case law determining EPA's endangerment finding is adequate and legal and sufficiently regulates carbon pollution to protect public health and safety?

It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge an issue that may come before me for decision if I am confirmed as Administrator. If the issue comes before me, I will ensure that the issue is fully and fairly considered with input from staff, as part of a transparent process that seeks input from stakeholders, and that is consistent with EPA's statutory authorities.

87.Do you trust the analysis, concerns and recommendations of security experts at the State Department, Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, The Navy War College, UN Security Council, and the World Bank, who have expressed growing concerns over the threat climate change poses to national and global security?

I have no reason to disagree with the statements from the listed security experts, although I have not made any attempt to independently verify their accuracy.

88.U.S, national security experts that are working to incorporate climate modeling and climate change assessments into our national security planning apparatus rely on sound scientific analysis, modeling data, and technical assistance from the EPA in interpreting the data. Will commit to continuing EPA's engagements with the agencies and departments responsible protecting our national security and advancing our understanding and preparedness for the security risks climate change poses to the United States?

Interagency cooperation is very important. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will collaborate with any agency or department that may require the EPA's technical expertise to strengthen their own administrative actions.

89.What assurances can you provide the public, particularly vulnerable communities at greatest risk from pollution, that you will represent their interests fairly as administrator when your personal political campaigns, as well as organizations that you have held leadership positions within - like the Republican Attorneys General Association, has received hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions from the fossil fuel industry because of your working championing their interests by challenging laws regulating these industries?

As I explained in my testimony to the Committee, I am a firm believer in the EPA's mission to protect the environment and look forward to the opportunity lead the agency to help provide our future generations with a better and healthier environment for all Americans.

90.You have lost many of the lawsuits challenging EPA's authorities, including the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the lawsuit challenging the endangerment finding on greenhouse gases. Given the difficulty you've had winning cases, what

assurances can you provide the committee of your sound judgment when it comes to understanding our nation's environmental statutes?

As Attorney General of Oklahoma, my focus has been on examining federal environmental statutes and relevant case law to evaluate the legality of the EPA's actions and the impact of those actions on Oklahoma. Oklahoma filed a friend of the court brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in part to inform the court how EPA's interpretation of TMDL and other matters involved in the challenge would impact other states, including Oklahoma. If I am confirmed, I will apply those lessons which I have developed in the performance of my duties as Attorney General and would continue to do so if confirmed as Administrator.

91.Will you work with all stakeholders and the State Department on execution of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phasedown hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and will you commit to ensuring that any actions EPA may take to modify or rescind the Safe New Alternatives Program (SNAP) rules on HFCs coincide with the U.S.'s acceptance or ratification of the Kigali Amendment?

Should the State Department decide to advance the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and if I am confirmed as Administrator, I will work with all involved agencies and impacted stakeholders to ensure that EPA's actions related to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are coordinated accordingly.

Ranking Member Carper:

1. Please list all public speeches or presentations you have made that included references to any issue related to energy or the environment since 1998, and please provide copies (written, audio, or video) of any such speeches or presentations. Please also indicate whether you received compensation for any such speech or presentation (whether stipend, travel, lodging expenses, or other form of remuneration) along with the name of the entity that provided such compensation and the amount thereof.

Please see attached list of speeches and enclosed copies of speeches in response to this request.

2. Please provide a list of the skills and experiences you bring to the EPA Administrator position and why you believe that you would be a good fit for the position.

I am a licensed attorney with significant experience in constitutional law, the Administrative Procedure Act, and Environmental Protection Agency administered statutes. This body has recognized my expertise in EPA related matters on several occasions, inviting me to testify before this and other committees on matters relating to the EPA. My legal education and profession has trained me to ask probing questions and think critically regardless of the subject.

3. Please define the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s mission and the role you believe that sound science plays in fulfilling that mission.

The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. Where Congress directs the EPA to act based upon scientific findings, the EPA should rely on well-reasoned, and sound, scientific findings.

4. In a 2006 article in The Oklahoman, you were described as someone that "believes in negotiating, but not compromising." Do you feel this continues to be an accurate description of you? If so, why? Do you agree with President Nixon's articulation of the principal roles and functions of the EPA? If you do not agree, please explain the aspects with which you disagree and why.

Based on the limited information provided in the question, I am uncertain about the article to which the question refers. The content and context of

the article and quote are not readily apparent. However, if confirmed as Administrator, I will take my responsibility to protect human health and the environment for all Americans with the highest possible dedication and commitment in accordance with the legal authorities established by Congress. I have a record of working on a bipartisan basis.

5. Do you think it is constitutional for Congress to direct EPA to set national standards that protect public health? Is it constitutional for Congress to do that even if the pollution only harms citizens of a single state?

The constitutionality of laws enacted by Congress depends on the particulars of the particular law, and will typically be decided by a court. Courts have generally recognized that Congress has the authority to create the EPA and vest certain powers in it.

6. Mr. Pruitt, your official biography on the website of the Oklahoma Attorney General's office says that you are "...a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda." The EPA, the agency you have been nominated to lead, has the critical mission "to protect human health and the environment" for all Americans. When you sued the EPA over the Good Neighbor Rule (Cross-state Rule), how did that protect human health and the environment for downwind states?

I firmly believe that the EPA plays an important role in addressing interstate water and air quality issues, but it must do so within the bounds of its legal authority. The actions undertaken by the Office of Attorney General challenging the Cross State Air Pollution Rule related to whether EPA had properly accounted for and allocated pollution from upwind states, as mandated by Congress. Regulations that are not on solid legal foundation and that cannot survive judicial review will not result in environmental protections.

7. You've been part of numerous lawsuits against the EPA – against clean air, clean water and climate regulations. However, you also have stated you are for clean air and clean water. Can you name one Clean Air Act regulation – not a voluntary or grant program – that is on the books today that you do support?

I firmly believe that the EPA plays an important role, especially as it relates to cross-state air and water pollution, but EPA must do so within the bounds of its legal authority as provided by Congress. Regulations that are not on solid legal foundation and that cannot survive judicial review will not result in environmental protections.

8. Are there any other EPA regulations that are on the books today that you do support?

I have not conducted a comprehensive review of existing EPA regulations. As Attorney General, I have brought legal challenges involving EPA regulations out of concern that EPA has exceeded its statutory authority based on the record and law in that matter.

9. President-elect Donald Trump has said repeatedly—at least half a dozen times—on the campaign trail that he would starve the EPA of funding or completely eliminate the agency. In March last year, the President-elect stated in reference to the EPA:

"We are going to get rid of it in almost every form. We're going to have little tidbits left but we're going to take a tremendous amount out,"

After the election, the President-elect didn't seem to change his tune. President-elect Trump stated two days after the election again in reference to the EPA:

"Environmental protection, what they do is a disgrace; every week they come out with new regulations,"

You also have a history attacking the agency. Please tell us why we should disregard the President-elect's statement on the EPA, disregard your actions and only believe your words that you will support clean air and clean water laws?

As I testified, I support the EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. If confirmed, I will faithfully execute the environmental laws enacted by Congress.

10. As Administrator, will you take into account the true costs of air pollution including the adverse health and environmental impacts on states that are adversely affected by upwind pollution sources?

As I stated at the hearing, costs are important in the rulemaking process and the Courts have recognized that important factor. The Clean Air Act prescribes when costs should be considered and to what extent in a

rulemaking. If confirmed, I commit to faithfully executing the law as enacted by Congress.

11. As Administrator, will you take into account the full economic and job benefits that result from clean air protections such as the economic benefits to communities from clean air and American leading businesses that manufacture advanced technologies?

As I stated at the hearing, the EPA should consider the benefits of cleaner air for the public. The Clean Air Act prescribes certain instances where the EPA is obligated to conduct a cost-benefit analysis as part of the rulemaking process. If confirmed, I commit to faithfully execute the law as enacted by Congress.

12. If it is technologically and economically feasible to eliminate the release of a particular pollutant, do you agree that we should do so?

Environmental statutes prescribe certain instances where technological or economic feasibility is a relevant factor to consider in a rulemaking. If confirmed, I commit to faithfully execute the law as enacted by Congress.

13. I have often found that environmental regulations can and often drive innovation. We have seen that with the Acid Rain Program, CAFÉ, Clean Diesel standards, RFS and most recently with the mercury standards. Do you agree environmental regulations often drive innovation? If so, why? If not, why not?

The factors that lead to technological innovation can be complex and varied, and legal requirements may be one such factor.

14. Who serves or has served as your scientific advisor for climate change related issues during your time as attorney general? Please provide their names, their titles, and when they served as your science advisors.

The Office of Attorney General does not have a science advisor to advise on climate change related issues.

15. Mr. Pruitt, my State of Delaware is already seeing the adverse effects of climate change with sea level rise, ocean acidification, and stronger storms. While all states will be harmed by climate change, the adverse effects will vary by

state and region. Can you comment on why it is imperative that we have national standards for the reduction in carbon pollution?

If confirmed, I will fulfill the duties of the Administrator consistent with Massachusetts v. EPA and the agency's Endangerment Finding on Greenhouse Gases respective of the relative statutory framework established by Congress.

16. Pruitt, will you agree that there will be no retaliation against EPA employees who work on climate change issues?

If confirmed, yes.

17. Clean car standards save consumers money at the pump and help reduce oil imports. Automakers are complying with vehicle standards ahead of schedule. As Administrator, will you commit to support, defend and enforce EPA's current programs to address emissions from vehicles?

Congress has enacted numerous statutes directly or indirectly affecting transportation fuels, transportation fuel infrastructure, and the vehicles that consume those fuels. Congress committed many of those statutes to the EPA Administrator's responsibility. If confirmed as Administrator, I would administer each of those statutes in accordance with Congress's statutory objectives, and in light of the administrative record in each given proceeding. And I would work with Congress to ensure that its statutes continue to provide the best possible legal framework for governing American fuels, fuel infrastructure, and vehicles, and for promoting American energy independence, energy security, and environmental protection.

18. What is your definition of sound science?

Sound science is that which complies with applicable laws and federal guidance regarding scientific integrity, peer review, information quality, and transparency.

19. Prior to your nomination, how have you acquired scientific information relevant to the missions of the EPA? And since your nomination?

As Attorney General of Oklahoma, my focus has been on examining federal environmental statutes and relevant case law to evaluate the legality of the EPA's actions. Legal education is rooted in the Socratic method, which trains law students through probing questions and critical thinking and I apply those lessons and skills in the performance of my duties as Attorney General and would continue to do so if confirmed as Administrator.

20. Please list all undergraduate and postgraduate science courses that you have taken. Please describe any other science education that you have completed over the years beyond high school.

My degrees are in communications, political science, and law. As with prior EPA Administrators who held bachelor of arts degrees, I completed science courses as a prerequisite to requiring my degree.

21. President Nixon articulated that an important role for EPA is "The conduct of research on the adverse effects of pollution . . . the gathering of information on pollution, and the use of this information in strengthening environmental protection programs and recommending policy changes." Do you agree with President Nixon that EPA has an important role to play in researching any emerging risks from pollution as well as strengthening protections and recommending policy changes based on the science?

Yes.

22. Do you think the U.S. National Academy of Sciences is a reliable authority on scientific matters?

I have no reason to think otherwise, but I have not had occasion as Attorney General to consider this issue.

23. What degree of scientific certainty should the EPA have about a potential health or environmental threat before acting to protect people from that threat?

EPA actions are governed by statutes such as the Clean Air Act and other legal authorities and relevant case law, which establish applicable legal and scientific standards for the Administrator to act. If confirmed, I will adhere to these authorities to fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment for all Americans.

24. Do you support legislative efforts to change the independent nature of the EPA' s Science Advisory Board? If so, please explain why.

I am unfamiliar with the legislative efforts being referred to in this question. If confirmed, I expect to be briefed by EPA staff before taking any position on such matters.

25. If confirmed, do you plan to propose or advocate for budget cuts to the EPA's FY 2018 budget? If so, for which programs would you reduce funding? Would you target the EPA's research programs? Are there areas of agency action where you believe additional financial resources are needed?

I have no first-hand knowledge of EPA's development of its FY 2018 budget request. If confirmed, I look forward to working with EPA's budget staff and program offices to develop a budget and will work to ensure that the resources appropriated to EPA by Congress are managed wisely in pursuit of the Agency's important mission and in accordance with all applicable legal authorities.

26. For the most part, patients and their families only participate in scientific trials and studies once they know their privacy - and any resulting health-related information - will remain confidential and secure. If confirmed, do you commit to respecting confidentiality agreements that exist between researchers and their subjects? Will you protect the health information of the thousands of people that have participated in health studies in the past?

If confirmed, it will be my privilege to work with EPA scientists and the thousands of other dedicated public servants at EPA who have chosen to devote their careers to improving public health and our environment. I have no first-hand knowledge of EPA's policies or practice concerning the confidentiality of health information. If confirmed, I would expect to learn more about the existing practice and I commit to follow applicable legal authorities regarding the confidentiality of health information.

27. If confirmed, how will you ensure that EPA maintains independent science, transparent decision-making, and scientific free speech?

If confirmed, it will be my privilege to work with EPA scientists and the thousands of other dedicated public servants at EPA who have chosen to

devote their careers to improving public health and our environment. I also commit, if confirmed, to follow applicable laws and federal guidance on scientific integrity, information quality, and transparency.

28. Mr. Pruitt, when Congress passed our bedrock environmental laws, we directed EPA to periodically review and update the federal minimum health protection standards based on the best available scientific evidence. Do you agree that these federal minimum standards must be based on the best available science?

I agree that EPA regulatory actions must be based on the best available science in accordance with the law. If confirmed, I commit to faithfully execute the law as enacted by Congress.

29. Mr. Pruitt, conflicts of interest threaten the integrity of science and public trust in the agency's scientific determinations. Scientists are not immune from having their work and conclusions influenced by their financial interests. Allowing scientists with conflicts of interest to serve as peer reviewers is contrary to widely accepted scientific integrity practices, including those of the National Academies of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health, and other scientific bodies. Industry funded scientists who may have unique expertise can be invited to present information to peer reviewers or an advisory committee, but should not actually serve as a reviewer or member of the committee. Can you explain what steps you would take as Administrator to ensure that scientists with financial conflicts of interest do not threaten the independent peer review process at EPA?

Independent peer review is critical to ensuring the scientific integrity of EPA actions. If confirmed, it will be my privilege to work with EPA's scientists and the thousands of other dedicated public servants at EPA who have chosen to devote their careers to making a healthier and cleaner environment. I commit, if confirmed, to follow applicable legal authorities regarding conflicts of interests in the scientific peer review process.

30. Mr. Pruitt, do you agree that for scientific research to be credible, it must be subject to objective, independent peer review before it is published and remain subject to scrutiny after it is published?

Independent peer review is critical to ensuring the integrity of scientific research. If confirmed, it will be my privilege to work with EPA's scientists and the thousands of other dedicated public servants at EPA who have chosen to devote their careers to making a healthier and cleaner

environment. I commit, if confirmed, to follow applicable legal authorities regarding the peer review process for scientific research.

31. Mr. Pruitt, do you agree that for scientific research to be credible, scientists must disclose all sources of funding for their research?

Credible scientific research is critical to the EPA's mission and, if confirmed, I commit to follow applicable legal authorities regarding scientific research.

32. In the 1970 and 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, Congress delayed older coal power plants air control requirements because Congress thought that most of the old plants would be shuttered in the decade after the legislation passed. Congress thought there was no need to invest in new technologies at these old, dying plants. Did many of these coal plants actually retire? Do you know the average age of our coal fleet?

I understand that the U.S. Energy Information Administration's Electric Power Annual 2015 report released in November 2016 indicated that between 2005 and 2015 more than one-third of U.S. coal-fired power plants retired and the remaining fleet has an average age of 38 years.

33. Do you know what the role the price of natural gas plays in industry decisions to retire coal plants and fuel switch to natural gas?

I am aware that market conditions, such as the reduced price of natural gas, and costly environmental regulations have been causing coal-fired power plants to prematurely shut-down or convert to natural gas.

34. In your cases against the EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Rule, who served as your scientific advisor for the case?

Oklahoma's petition to review the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule was a legal challenge brought on the administrative record and argued that EPA acted contrary to law and arbitrarily and capriciously by not considering the costs of regulation in determining whether it was necessary and appropriate to regulate mercury from fossil fuel power plants within the meaning of Section 112(n). The Supreme Court ultimately agreed with Oklahoma's argument that EPA failed to act in accordance with the rule of law when it ignored costs in its determination and remanded the matter to the D.C. Circuit.

35. Mr. Pruitt, ten percent of American women have dangerous levels of mercury in their bodies. But recent data shows that since the United States started cleaning up emissions from coal power plants, not only has mercury pollution in the North Atlantic fallen dramatically, so has the concentration of mercury in Atlantic fisheries. Mercury in Atlantic bluefin tuna is down 19% in only eight years. Given this resounding confirmation that regulation works, how firmly can you assure us that if you are confirmed, EPA's recent successful crackdown on all sources of mercury emissions, including coal power plants will accelerate, rather than pulling back?

As I stated in my testimony, mercury is listed as a hazardous air pollutant under section 112 of the Clean Air Act and is subject to regulation from listed source categories of hazardous air pollutants. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will regulate under Section 112 in a manner that is consistent with Congress's intent in enacting that provision. I will also faithfully administer other federal statutes that regulate mercury to the extent that they are under my jurisdiction, including the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act of 1996, the Clean Water Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

36. As you may remember, we had three exchanges over the issue of whether EPA should regulate toxic air emissions, including mercury, from power plants, specifically through the provisions authorized under Section 112 of the Clean Act. We also discussed your lawsuits, one pending, against the recent EPA rule that again addresses regulation of power plant mercury and other toxic air emissions under Section 112. Below is a direct quote from our second exchange, when I asked you directly about regulating power plant toxic air emissions:

"Senator, I actually have not stated that I believe the EPA should not move forward on regulating mercury or adopting rulemaking in that regard. Our challenge was with regard to the process that was used in that case and how it was not complicit with statutes as defined by congress. So there is not a statement or belief that I have that mercury is something that shouldn't be regulated under section 112 as a hazardous air pollution. A HAP."

These statements conflict directly with the language in the brief that you filed on June 2012 in White Stallion Energy, et al. V EPA: which says: "Finally, the record does not support EPA's findings that mercury, non-mercury HAP metals, and acid gas haps pose public health hazards."

These statements also conflict directly with language in the brief in the pending case that you filed April 25, 2016 with Murray Energy Corporation, et al v EPA: "EPA cannot properly conclude that it is "appropriate and necessary to regulate HAPs under Section 112."

These written statements quite clearly directly contradict your statements before our committee. Which statement is false, the verbal before our committee or the legal documents you filed pending in court? If confirmed, will you recuse yourself from any involvement in questions or cases related to regulating air toxic emission from power plants under Section 112(d) of the Clean Air Act?

As I stated in my testimony, mercury is listed as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and is subject to regulation from listed source categories of hazardous air pollutants. Electric utility steam generating units are subject to regulation under Section 112 only upon a lawful showing that their regulation is appropriate and necessary. In Michigan v. EPA, the Supreme Court agreed with Oklahoma's legal position when it concluded that EPA interpreted Section 112(n) unreasonably by failing to consider costs in its appropriate and necessary determination. That challenge was made by Oklahoma on the specific administrative record before the court in that matter and all statements regarding the sufficiency of regulation in that case relate only to the material in the record before the Agency. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will apply the Clean Air Act faithfully in all matters before me and will follow the advice of the EPA Ethics Counsel in determining any recusals.

37. As you may remember, we had three exchanges over the issue of whether EPA should regulate mercury (and other air toxic) emissions from power plants, specifically through the provisions authorized under Section 112 of the Clean Act. We also discussed your lawsuits, one pending, against the recent EPA rule that implement regulations to regulate power plant mercury emissions under Section 112. As you may remember, I specifically asked you at the end of the hearing:

"Based on your earlier statements, that if confirmed we can have your assurances that the EPA will continue to regulate mercury emissions from power plants under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and you will not defer to the states."

You answered:

"Mercury under Section 112 is something that EPA should deal with and regulate."

You stated this many times. I was very clear in my questioning that I was asking about mercury emissions and of course, the many other air toxic emissions, which the courts have said must be regulated under Section 112(d) from power plants. However, in this answer, you only mentioned mercury and not power plant mercury emissions, and you completely disregarded the other air toxics that are emitted by power plants, which include acid gases and carcinogenic metals like arsenic, nickel and cadmium. So please clarify, if confirmed, can we have your assurance that the EPA will continue to regulate power plants using the technology based standards required by Section 112(d) of the Clean Air Act and you will not defer to the states. Please answer in regards to all power plant air toxic emissions, not just on the question of mercury itself, and not just with respect to whether mercury should be regulated, but as to whether power plant mercury and other air toxics must be regulated.

As I stated in my testimony, mercury is listed as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and is subject to regulation from listed source categories of hazardous air pollutants. Electric utility steam generating units are subject to regulation under Section 112 only upon a lawful showing that their regulation is appropriate and necessary. In Michigan v. EPA, the Supreme Court agreed with Oklahoma's legal position when it concluded that EPA interpreted Section 112(n) unreasonably by failing to consider costs in its appropriate and necessary determination. The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard has not been vacated by the Supreme Court or the D.C. Circuit and currently regulates both mercury and other air toxics. As Administrator, I will enforce the Mercury Air Toxics Rule so long as that Rule remains in force.

38. As you may remember, we had three exchanges over the issue of whether EPA should regulate mercury (and other air toxic) emissions from power plants, specifically through the provisions authorized under Section 112 of the Clean Act. We also discussed your lawsuits, one pending, against the recent EPA rule that implement regulations to regulate power plant mercury emissions under Section 112. After our first exchange, you stated:

"There was no argument that we made from a state perspective that mercury is not a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112. Our argument focused upon the cost-benefit analysis that the EPA failed to do and the Michigan v EPA case the Supreme Court actually agreed. It was more about the process again that the EPA was supposed to go through in regulating mercury to provide certainty to

those in the workplace, not a statement in respect whether mercury should be regulated or not under section 112."

Mr. Pruitt, in this exchange, did you mean to avoid the question whether power plant mercury and other HAPs must be regulated under the technology based requirements of maximum achievable control, under Section 112(d)? Or do you agree the Supreme Court, which expressly declined to consider this question, leaving the MATs Rules Section 112(d) regulations in place? Please fully explain your previous statements.

Neither statement is false. As I stated in my testimony, mercury is listed as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and is subject to regulation from listed source categories of hazardous air pollutants, and Oklahoma was not challenging mercury's status as a HAP in the case you reference. Electric utility steam generating units are subject to regulation under Section 112 only upon a lawful showing that their regulation is appropriate and necessary. In Michigan v. EPA, the Supreme Court agreed with Oklahoma's legal position when it concluded that EPA interpreted Section 112(n) unreasonably by failing to consider costs in its appropriate and necessary determination. The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard has not been vacated by the Supreme Court or the D.C. Circuit and currently regulates both mercury and other air toxics. As Administrator, I will enforce the Mercury Air Toxics Rule so long as that Rule remains in force.

39. As you may remember, we had three exchanges over the issue of whether EPA should regulate mercury (and other air toxic) emissions from power plants, specifically through the provisions authorized under Section 112 of the Clean Act. We also discussed your lawsuits, one pending, against the recent EPA rule that implement regulations to regulate power plant mercury emissions under Section 112. As you may remember, I specifically asked you at the end of the hearing:

"Based on your earlier statements, that if confirmed we can have your assurances that the EPA will continue to regulate mercury emissions from power plants under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and you will not defer to the states."

You answered:

"Mercury under Section 112 is something that EPA should deal with and regulate."

You stated this many times during our exchanges. I was very clear in my questioning that I was asking about mercury emissions from power plants. And of course as well the many other air toxics emitted by this industry and listed by congress for regulation. However, in this answer, you only mentioned mercury and not power plant mercury emissions, or other air toxics at all. So please clarify,

- Do you agree that the EPA's recent consideration of the costs of the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule that shows that the agency has met the "necessary and appropriate" criteria Congress provided under 112(n) to direct the EPA to regulate power plant mercury (and other air toxic) emissions under Section 112, and more specifically under Section 112(d)? If not, why not?
- If you do not agree that EPA has met the "necessary and appropriate" criteria found in Section 112(n), what is your understanding of what that would mean for the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule?
- If the pending case you brought before the DC Circuit challenging EPA's cost analysis (Murray Energy Corporation, et al v EPA), is successful what is your view of what EPA would have to do to regulate mercury and other hazardous air pollutant power plant emissions under Section 112?

As I stated in my testimony, mercury is listed as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and is subject to regulation from listed source categories of hazardous air pollutants. Electric utility steam generating units are subject to regulation under Section 112 only upon a lawful showing that their regulation is appropriate and necessary. In Michigan v. EPA, the Supreme Court agreed with Oklahoma's legal position when it concluded that EPA interpreted Section 112(n) unreasonably by failing to consider costs in its appropriate and necessary determination. In my capacity as Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma, on remand the petitioner group has argued that EPA's supplemental finding regarding costs is contrary to law and arbitrary and capricious for the reasons stated in that brief. If the D.C. Circuit finds against EPA, I am confirmed as Administrator and the matter comes before me at that time, I will seek and follow the advice of EPA Ethics Counsel in determining whether I may participate in that matter. If I do participate in that matter, I will apply the Clean Air Act faithfully and use my best efforts to take appropriate action in light of the administrative record before the Agency at that time.

40. In the pending case you brought before the DC Circuit challenging EPA's cost analysis (Murray Energy Corporation, et al v EPA), the following statement is included in your brief:

"EPA also claims that, even though it was able to quantify highly uncertain IAQ benefits purportedly resulting from mercury emissions, other health and

environmental benefits of reducing EGU mercury, acid gas, and non-mercury metals emissions simply could not be quantified. But these purported benefits are to speculative to support "appropriate and necessary" finding for the same reasons the Agency cannot quantify them: they are not supported by the scientific literature."

As you probably know, the health benefits of cleaning up hazardous air pollutants are many, although many are difficult to quantify and certainly difficult or impossible to monetize. There are, however, several studies on how to quantify loss of IQ from mercury exposure and some early studies on how to quantify long-term effects of exposure. If confirmed, how do you recommend the EPA calculate the health risks to the unborn that may be exposed to mercury-laden fish because of power plant mercury emissions? How would you quantify the health risks of the Oklahomans living near the forty lakes that have mercury fish consumption advisories? There are also emerging studies quantifying the health impacts of the toxic metals and acid gases emitted by power plants, although monetizing the precise health costs of each pollutant are not possible as they are emitted in the toxic soup. How would you justify not protecting people living near these emissions if it were not possible to precisely quantify the health risks of exposure to power plant emissions of hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, nickel, arsenic, chromium and other heavy metals?

If I am confirmed as Administrator, I look forward to working with EPA staff to arrive at a transparent and scientifically sound process for determining the health risks associated with any activity that is properly before me at the Agency, including those related to mercury exposure, and regulating those activities as appropriate consistent with Congress's intent in enacting the Clean Air Act.

41. What industry is the largest emitter of mercury air emissions in this country? The second? The third? Please provide peer-reviewed data and sources for this answer.

EPA's technical support document (v2) for the 2011 National Emissions Inventory indicates that the industries that are the three largest point source emitters of mercury in the U.S. are (1) utility coal boilers, (2) electric arc furnaces, and (3) industrial, commercial institutional boilers and process heaters.

42. What impacts do mercury power plant air emissions have on unborn children? Can you explain how power plant mercury emissions settle in water bodies and eventually can impact the unborn?

Some portion of mercury emitted into the air by power plants is deposited directly or indirectly into a watershed. Once present in the watershed, it can be naturally converted into methylmercury, which can then can be absorbed by aquatic organisms, such as fish, and consumed by humans. The unborn children of pregnant women can be exposed to methylmercury if their mothers consume those fish.

43. How much of our nation's mercury air emissions come from the natural environment, vs manmade emissions? Please provide peer-reviewed data and sources for this answer.

J.M.Pacynaetal.:Current and future levels of mercury atmospheric pollution on a global scale, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 16, 12495–12511, 2016, indicates that approximately 30% of worldwide mercury emissions are manmade and 70% come from primary natural mercury emissions and re-emissions.

44. Mr. Pruitt, do you understand that EPA's data show that power plants emit not only 50 percent of all US emissions of mercury, but that they also emit 82% of hydrochloric acid gas, 62% of hydrofluoric acid gas as well as many listed heavy metals, which are emitted as particulate matter, including Selenium (83% of domestic emissions), Nickel (28% of domestic emissions), Arsenic (62% of domestic emissions), Chromium (22% of domestic emissions), and others? The cite for those statistics is found in EPA's record at 76 Fed. Reg. Page 25006 Table 5. Given that Section 112(d) as interpreted by the US Courts for many years requires the regulation of all listed hazardous air pollutants from listed industries, would you not agree that power plant hazardous air pollutants must all be regulated under the technology based requirements of section 112(d)?

The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard has not been vacated by the Supreme Court or the D.C. Circuit and currently regulates both mercury and other air toxics. If confirmed, I will enforce the Mercury Air Toxics Rule so long as that Rule remains in force.

45. Given that the statute requires a showing that not one power plant emits hazardous air pollutants in amounts greater than required to cause a lifetime risk of cancer greater than one in a million to the most exposed persons, and for non-carcinogenic air toxics, to exceed a level which is adequate to protect public health with an ample margin of safety and no adverse environmental effects, and given that EPA's long standing record shows that the coal- and oil-fired power industry cannot make either of those showings what other regulatory mechanism do you believe is available "under section 112"?

The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard has not been vacated by the Supreme Court or the D.C. Circuit and currently regulates both mercury and other air toxics. If confirmed, I will enforce Mercury Air Toxics Rule so long as that Rule remains in force. If I am confirmed as Administrator and am presented with information showing that EPA has discretion to regulate power plants in a manner that is consistent with the Clean Air Act but that differs from the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard, or that power plants meet the standard for de-listing under Section 1129c)(9), I would consider that matter in due course as I would consider any other matter under my jurisdiction in due course.

46. The joint brief filed by your state and the regulated industry in the most recent round of appeals of EPA's decision making on power plant air toxics suggests that you are not aware of recent court precedent upholding EPA's evaluation of all the benefits, including so-called 'co-benefits' of EPA's rulemaking on particulate matter reductions that would be the direct result of the rule. What is your position on the importance of judicial precedent in governing the Agency's actions under the same statutes as have been previously interpreted by the courts?

If confirmed, I would faithfully comply the Clean Air Act in accordance with congressional intent. Judicial precedent is undoubtedly an important guide to congressional intent but Congress has also delegated interpretive authority to the Administrator of the Clean Air Act, consistent with judicial review. If I am confirmed as Administrator and form the judgment that a judicial decision is incorrect, I would consider seeking an appeal or petition for certiorari to the Supreme Court seeking reversal of that decision. Likewise, EPA recently promulgated regional consistency regulations that address the implication of adverse federal court decisions that result from challenges to locally or regionally applicable actions and I would exercise my discretion under those regional consistency regulations unless and until they are changed.

47. As I am sure you are aware, the US Supreme Court has expressly declined to consider whether EPA should have chosen some other mechanism "under section 112" in regulating power plant mercury and all the other HAPs emitted by the industry. What is your position on that precedent?

In the White Stallion decision, the D.C. Circuit held that EPA's interpretation of Section 112(n) that Sections 112(c) and -(d) provided the appropriate mechanism for regulating power plants under Section 112 after the appropriate and necessary determination was made was entitled to deference. As your question indicates, the Supreme Court did not grant

discretionary review of that question. So long as the White Stallion decision is not reversed by the D.C. Circuit and the underlying agency action is not vacated, it remains a valid judicial precedent on this point.

48. Given that you have been actively suing the EPA over the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule and have one pending lawsuit, will you recuse yourself from participating in any decision making that may reopen the EPA's decision regarding the fact that it is "necessary and appropriate" to regulate power plants under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act?

As I stated in my testimony to the Committee, I will follow the advice of EPA Ethics Counsel in all recusal matters.

49. If confirmed, will you continue with EPA's assertion that it is "necessary and appropriate" to regulate mercury and other hazardous air pollutants from power plants under Section 112 – specifically under the technology based maximum achievable control requirements of Section 112(d)?

The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard has not been vacated by the Supreme Court or the D.C. Circuit and currently regulates both mercury and other air toxics. As Administrator, I will enforce all aspects of the Mercury Air Toxics Rule so long as that Rule remains in force.

50. Do you agree with the Whitman v. American Trucking Associations, Inc., 531 U.S. 457 (2001) decision written by Justice Antonin Scalia that states that the EPA cannot consider implementation costs when setting primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards? If you do not agree, please explain.

As I stated in my testimony to Congress, there are instances where consideration of costs is not a factor. Setting the NAAQS for criteria pollutants is one such instance.

51. In 2015, you stated that in implementing the tighter ozone NAAQS, the EPA "failed to achieve the goals to protect air quality; the agency did not "articulate how the rule would further protect public health"; and was another "attempt by the administration to use executive agencies like the EPA to bypass Congress." Can you please explain what you meant by these statements?

Based on the limited information in the question, the source or context of the quote to which the questions refers is not readily apparent. Oklahoma

joined four other states in a petition for review of EPA's 2015 decision to lower the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone from 75 ppb to 70 ppb. The legal question raised by the state petitioners in the case is whether EPA set the standard at a level than can be achieved by states given the background concentrations and uncontrollable sources of ozone in many parts of the country. The briefs filed by the many State petitioners to that rule fully explain the States' position and speak for themselves. The case remains pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

52. As many of my colleagues know, I am an avid runner. I especially love to run with my 22-year son, who is a triathlete. In Delaware during the summer, we often have code orange days warning about the high levels of ozone for that day. Can you take a minute or two to describe how high levels of ozone could damage my lungs if I were to take a long run during a code orange day? Does ozone pollution cross state boundaries? If confirmed, how would you direct states to work together to reduce ozone pollution?

As I indicated at my nomination hearing, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule is important, as pollution does cross state boundaries. An upwind state that contributes to a downwind state's inability to meet air quality standards should take responsibility.

53. In 2013, you argued that the EPA's decision to impose a Federal Implementation Plan on Oklahoma to address Regional Haze would cost more than $1 billion over five years. It is three years later. Do you still agree with this cost assessment? If not, why not?

The cost estimates referenced in this question were developed in connection with the Oklahoma State Implementation Plan that EPA rejected and EPA's subsequent decision to implement a Federal Implementation Plan. Oklahoma and a state utility filed legal challenges against the Federal Implementation Plan decision. The 10th Circuit initially stayed the rule pending judicial review. A split panel of the 10th Circuit upheld the Federal Implementation Plan in 2013. As Attorney General, I have not had reason to revisit the specific cost estimate at issue in this case.

If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will use my best efforts to hold to the five-year NAAQS review period prescribed by the Clean Air Act.

54. If confirmed, will you continue to hold to the five-year National Ambient Air Quality Standards review time period that the Clean Air Act requires of the EPA?

If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will use my best efforts to hold to the five-year NAAQS review period prescribed by the Clean Air Act.

55. In previous hearings in this committee, we have had a few economists testify questioning EPA's science linking small particle pollution to negative health impacts. Can you just take a moment and talk about what you know about small particles and how they impact our lungs? Is the science robust in this area?

The science linking adverse health impacts and fine particulate matter pollution is well established. Accordingly, EPA has promulgated a National Ambient Air Quality Standard for particulate matter pollution that limits the concentration of small particulates, including those smaller than 2.5 microns, in the ambient air that at the level that the agency has determined is requisite to protect public health and welfare from adverse effects, while allowing an adequate margin of safety.

56. Mr. Pruitt, Section 109 of the Clean Air Act is very clear. It requires EPA to review the NAAQS for six common air pollutants including ground-level ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide every 5 years. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set these standards that "are requisite to protect the public health," with "an adequate margin of safety," and secondary standard necessary to protect public welfare. The science was clear that the 2008 ozone standard was not protecting public health, so EPA was required to Act. Is that not your understanding of the Clean Air Act?

Section 109 of the Clean Air Act requires EPA to set NAAQS at the level that is requisite to protect against adverse health and welfare effects, while allowing an adequate margin of safety. The Act includes a regular review cycle for criteria pollutants.

57. The EPA updated the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule in September 2016, which is within the time period for the rule to be subject to the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As Administrator, would you support the President signing a CRA resolution of disapproval that would reject these new standards?

Although I am familiar with the update to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and generally familiar with the Congressional Review Act, I have not

reviewed any potential legislation which may reject these new standards. If I am confirmed, I will thoroughly review any resolution of disapproval which may be filed pursuant to the Congressional Review Act on this issue.

58. Mr. Pruitt, the Clean Air Act recognizes that air pollution does not respect state boundaries and directs EPA to set minimum national standards to protect the health of the nation, including protecting downwind states.

•Do you agree that EPA should set minimum national standards?

•Do you agree that EPA must protect downwind states?

As I indicated during my nomination hearing, I believe the Cross State Air Pollution Rule is important and should be enforced by the EPA. An upwind state that contributes to a downwind state's nonattainment should take responsibility for that contribution.

59. Mr. Pruitt, my State of Delaware is a downwind state, and most of the air pollution in my state is coming from upwind states.

•Do you agree that it is EPA's role to ensure equity between where air pollution is produced and where it is received?

•Do you agree that to remedy this unfairness, the upwind states must do more to control their emissions to avoid exporting the pollution (and the costs to the health and welfare) to the downwind states?

As I indicated during my nomination hearing, I believe the Cross State Air Pollution Rule is important and should be enforced by the EPA. An upwind state that contributes to a downwind state's nonattainment should take responsibility for that contribution.

60. As you are well aware, on April 2, 2007, in Massachusetts v. EPA, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), the Supreme Court determined that sufficient information existed then for EPA to make an endangerment finding with respect to the combined emissions of six greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines under CAA section 202(a). On December 7, 2009, the Administrator determined that those gases/sources contribute to greenhouse gas pollution that endangers public health and welfare. How do you plan to execute your legal authority to protect the public health and welfare from greenhouse gas pollution?

The Supreme Court held that GHGs are an air pollutant under the Clean Air Act. It did not address the question of whether regulation of GHGs under the Clean Air Act is warranted. In the subsequent UARG decision, the

Supreme Court cautioned EPA that there are significant limits on EPA's authority to regulate GHGs under the Clean Air Act. The unprecedented Supreme Court stay of EPA's so-called "Clean Power Plan" was predicated upon a finding that the plaintiffs in the case were likely to prevail on the merits. In light of these holdings, I will hew closely to the text and intent of the Clean Air Act when considering further regulation of GHGs under that law if confirmed as Administrator.

61. Building off Congress's work on CAFE, the Obama Administration has updated emission standards for light and heavy-duty vehicles. These rules have had very little effect on the purchase price of new vehicles, but have saved consumers millions of dollars in fuel costs, vastly improved our energy security by slowing petroleum use and reduced a lot of pollution. If confirmed, do you support further strengthening vehicle emission standards? And with your federalism view, how do states address carbon pollution from vehicles themselves?

In making each of its decisions regarding light- and heavy-duty vehicle emission standards, the EPA has made decisions based on the administrative record at hand and Congress's statutory objectives. If confirmed, I would take care to make such decisions regarding vehicle emissions standards in furtherance of Congress's statutory objectives, based on the evidence in the administrative record. With respect to federalism, the Supreme Court stressed in Massachusetts v. EPA that States play a crucially important role in promulgating vehicle emission standards under the Clean Air Act: each "State has an interest independent of and behind the titles of its citizens, in all the earth and air within its domain." To that end, "Congress has ordered EPA to protect [the States and their people] by prescribing standards applicable to the 'emission of any air pollutant from any class or classes of new motor vehicle engines, which in [the Administrator's] judgment cause, or contribute to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare.'" Furthermore, the Clean Air Act and other federal administrative laws give each affected State "a concomitant procedural right to challenge the rejection of its rulemaking petition as arbitrary and capricious," and the Supreme Court affords States "special solicitude" to challenge the resulting standards in court. If confirmed, I would take care to ensure that States continue to play a central role in the administrative process giving rise to the EPA's vehicle emissions standards.

62. The EPA promulgated phase two of the heavy-duty vehicles greenhouse gas emissions standards in August 2016, which is within the time period for the rule to be subject to the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As Administrator, would you support the President signing into law a CRA resolution of disapproval that would

reject these new standards? What is your view of whether the EPA would be able to re-issue any heavy-duty vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards given the CRA's language that would prohibit the agency from issuing regulations that are "substantially similar?"

Although I am familiar with the regulations on heavy vehicle greenhouse gas emissions standards which were published in August 2016, I have not reviewed any potential legislation which may reject these standards. If I am confirmed, I will thoroughly review any resolution of disapproval which may be filed pursuant to the Congressional Review Act on this issue. In terms of re-issuing other heavyduty vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards, I would have to be briefed in detail on the regulations which have been published, and the provisions of the Congressional Review Act which prohibit the Agency from issuing any regulations which are substantially similar to the initial rules in order to determine what options the Agency may have in terms of proposing and finalizing additional regulations in this space.

63. As you know, the Renewable Fuels Standard, as amended by Congress in 2007, requires the blending of 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel into conventional gasoline and diesel by 2022. In order to add that many renewable fuel gallons to our fuel supply, do you agree that EPA must approve the sale of fuels blended with greater than 10-percent renewable content?

While Congress included "applicable volume" levels in the RFS statute, Congress also took care to expressly authorize the EPA Administrator to reduce volumetric requirements below the statute's default levels in light of real-world conditions from year to year. Specifically, the Administrator may waive the statute's volume requirements if he determines "that implementation of the requirement would severely harm the economy or environment of a State, a region, or the United States, or "that there is an inadequate domestic supply." The EPA already has granted such waivers based on real-world conditions in recent years and, if confirmed, I would take care to administer the statute in accordance with the statutory objectives. While no statute mandates the sale of fuels blended with greater than 10 percent renewable content, statutes do vest the Administrator with discretion to authorize a variety of fuel blends.

64. In October 2010, EPA approved the use of a 15-percent renewable fuel blend for cars built in 2007 or later. In the following January, EPA extended the use of that blend to model years 2001 to 2006. Do you support the decision by the EPA to allow 15-percent renewable fuel blends? If confirmed, would you commit to

using the discretion give to you by the Clean Air Act to evaluate even higher blends?

The EPA's 2010 and 2011 decisions to grant "partial waivers" for the use of E15 fuel for some vehicles were premised upon the EPA's conclusions (based on the administrative record) regarding E15's potential impacts on exhaust emissions (both immediate and long-term), evaporative emissions, "materials compatibility," and "drivability and operability." If confirmed, I would take care to administer the law in accordance with Congress's statutory objectives and the administrative record.

65. The Renewable Fuels Standard was designed to reduce dependence on foreign oil at a time that the U.S. was importing well more than half of its demand and concerns about energy and national security were paramount. It also was designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

Now that the United States supplies 76 percent of its oil domestically, do you believe the program continues to have an important role in enhancing the energy and environmental security of our country?

As Congress indicated in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, domestic production of renewable fuel contributes to our nation's "greater energy independence and security."

67. As you heard in my opening statement, the EPA's record demonstrates that strong environmental policies create economic opportunities. An undeniable example of this is the impact of the Renewable Fuels Standard in rural America. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, in 2015, 14.8 billion gallons of ethanol was produced, supporting 85,967 direct jobs, while net petroleum import dependence fell to just 24 percent, and would have been 32 percent without the addition of domestically produced ethanol. In addition, the Association says the use of ethanol in gasoline in 2015 reduced greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by 41.2 million metric tons — equivalent to removing 8.7 million cars from the road for an entire year. Do you agree that the Renewable Fuels Standard has supported rural economies in America while allowing for the production of cleaner transportation fuels?

I agree that the RFS's promotion of renewable fuels contributes to economic growth in agricultural communities, and promotes the production and consumption of transportation fuels providing many environmental benefits.

68. Some of my colleagues believe removing the corn ethanol mandate, but keeping the advanced biofuel mandate in the RFS is the best way forward. Do you have concerns with this approach?

The RFS statute neither expressly mandates the blending of corn ethanol nor prohibits its blending. In enacting the RFS statute, Congress took care to expressly authorize the EPA Administrator to reduce the volumetric requirements below the statute's default levels, in light of real-world conditions. Specifically, Congress authorized the Administrator to waive the volume requirements if he or she determines "that implementation of the requirement would severely harm the economy or environment of a State, a region, or the United States, or "that there is an inadequate domestic supply." The EPA already has granted such waivers based on real-world conditions in recent years and, if I am confirmed, I would take care to administer the statute in accordance with the statutory objectives.

69. As you may know, in recent years we have seen significant swings in Renewable Identification Number (RINs) prices. RINs are used by the EPA to track and ensure refineries are in compliance with the Renewable Fuel Standard. Many small and mid-range refineries are having difficulties with the price spikes of the RIN prices because many are buying some, if not all, their RINs off the market. As a result, high and volatile RIN prices have had a financial impact on these refineries. As the RFS continues to be implemented, what do you believe the agency should do – if anything - to assist with RIN prices?

As I indicated in my testimony, the EPA's RIN framework is currently the subject of a pending comment period. If confirmed as Administrator, I would take care to administer the RFS program, including the RIN framework, in accordance with Congress's statutory objectives, and based on the evidence in the EPA's administrative record, as well as the expertise of EPA staff and the expertise of other federal agencies relevant to the RIN framework and affected markets. The EPA already has entered into a "memorandum of understanding" with the CFTC, "on the sharing of information available to EPA related to the functioning of renewable fuel and related markets."

70. Mr. Pruitt, do you agree that the burden should be on a chemical facility operator to show that the design and operation of the facility is as safe as possible to protect workers and the public from explosions, fires, and other releases of toxic chemicals?

I believe that every American should be provided safe home and work environments and people who live or work in and around chemical facilities are no exception to that.

71. Mr. Pruitt, when there are feasible measures that chemical companies can take to prevent explosions and fires that release toxic chemicals into surrounding communities that can kill people, do you agree that the companies should take such measures?

I believe that chemical companies should take actions to prevent explosions and fires as well as other safety incidents.

72. Do you support the "not net loss of wetlands" policy? George H.W. Bush initiated this critical policy in 1988 to protect our remaining wetlands habitat and all of the critical ecological and economic functions it supports. It has been U.S. Government policy ever since.

Yes.

73. A GAO report published on December 5, 2013 found that "more than 40 years after Congress passed the Clean Water Act [...] EPA reported that many of the nation's waters are still impaired, and the goals of the act are not being met. Without changes to the act's approach to nonpoint source pollution, the act's goals are likely to remain unfulfilled." If confirmed, how will you work to address surface water quality impairments, including from non-point source pollutants?

Congress did not grant EPA authority to regulate non-point sources because regulation of non-point sources is the regulation of land, a traditional state authority. Instead, Congress created a planning process under section 208 of the Clean Water Act and authorized funding for state non-point source management plans under section 319. If confirmed, I will implement the authorities granted to EPA by Congress.

74. You have attacked the Obama Administration's "Waters of the United States" regulation, objecting to "the significant negative impact such a rule would inflict on states and the landowners within their borders." Oklahoma's major streams and rivers lie within two river basins, the Red and the Arkansas, both of which flow into other states. And Oklahoma receives most of its waters from upstream neighbors, particularly Texas. Without national regulation, how would you suggest that that Oklahoma's downstream neighbors - Arkansas and Louisiana -

guarantee the quality of the water that flows across their boundaries? And how would you suggest that Oklahoma protects the quality of the water that it receives from upstream neighbors like Texas? You appear to believe that the only parties with an interest in water are those within a state, not downstream neighbors. Why?

Federal jurisdiction exists over navigable water, interstate water, and tributaries that can transport pollutants to navigable waters, and jurisdiction over the interstate rivers that are the subject of your question is not in dispute.

75. Communities across the country are facing the economic and health consequences of contaminated ground water, which impacts water systems and private well owners. How will you work to ensure communities are protected from drinking contaminated ground water? How will you address and strengthen the EPA's response to groundwater contamination and ensure homeowners and water systems are taking the steps to diagnose, treat, and remediate their groundwater resources?

For drinking water wells that are public water systems, the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act apply and EPA has authorities to provide small systems with technical assistance through circuit rider programs. For private well owners, the WIIN Act provided authority for EPA to support a drinking water technology clearinghouse for well owners. If confirmed, I will use the authorities and resources granted by Congress to help both public water systems and well owners.

76. This question is of interest to Senator Manchin and me: We must do everything we can to ensure that every American has access to safe and clean water. West Virginia has had issues with chemicals like PFOA in our drinking water as recently as last year. In fact, the State had to ship in alternative water supplies to the city of Vienna. Martinsburg and Parkersburg also had serious challenges. And, in 2014, the Elk River Chemical Spill left 300,000 West Virginians without access to potable water, so I know Senator Manchin looks forward to working with you to promote federal clean water initiatives. He also appreciates your commitment in your meeting together to working to address these challenges. Please outline how you intend to expand efforts to promote safe drinking water and support the modernization of our nation's water infrastructure.

If confirmed, I will focus on EPA's core missions, including, as appropriate, use of EPA's emergency order authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

I also will implement the newly revised TSCA statute to address chemicals and will continue implementation of monitoring, review, and regulation of contaminants under the SDWA if confirmed.

77. One of the tools within the Clean Water Act that communities can use to restore the quality of polluted waters is through the development and implementation of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan. The GAO also found that funding for TMDLs has been insufficient in meeting national needs, with more than 50% of the nation's waters being identified as impaired. Will you advocate for funding to match the needs for the TMDL program? How do you plan to support and strengthen the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulatory framework?

If confirmed, I will support continued funding of State programs authorized under section 106 of the Clean Water Act, which states use in part for TMDL development. I also will support flexibility for state use of 106 funds to allow states to focus on priorities such as impaired waters requiring TMDLs. If confirmed, I also will support the continued development of tools to help states develop TMDLs. Finally, I would note that neither GAO nor EPA has said that 50% of the nation's waters are identified as impaired. For example, states have assessed about 32% of rivers and streams. Of those assessed waters, states have identified about 54% as impaired. That means states have data showing that 17% of rivers and streams are impaired. You cannot extrapolate the data from assessed waters to all waters because most states target their monitoring to focus on waters they have reason to believe are impaired, so they can target their resources where they are needed the most.

78. You expressed great pride in your role in resolving the Mahard Egg Farm enforcement, indicating that it demonstrates your commitment to enforce environmental law. When was the complaint in the litigation filed, and how did that date correspond to the date of the proposed consent decree? Based on your responses to these questions, how well investigated and developed was this case when you took office? Can you explain your personal involvement in either the complaint or the consent decree?

The complaint was filed on May 23, 2011. The consent decree was entered into on August 10, 2011. There was no filed case when I took office, but the matter had been investigated by the Office of Attorney General, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, the EPA, and the State of Texas. I authorized the filing of the case once in office. The complaint and consent decree were handled by the attorneys in the Office of Attorney General responsible for environmental matters.

79. Mr. Pruitt, the Clean Water Act requires EPA to review and revise its national water quality standards for pollutants based on the best available science. EPA has proposed or finalized more stringent standards for ammonia, nutrients, selenium, and dental offices. Do you agree that these standards must be based on the best available science?

Under section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act, states are required to, every three years "hold public hearings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards and, as appropriate, modifying and adopting standards." Proposed changes to state water quality standards are submitted to EPA. Under 303(c)(3), EPA is to approve the state standards if they meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Under section 304, EPA establishes water quality criteria that provide guidance for state water quality standards. The Clean Water Act directs EPA to review these criteria documents "from time to time" except for criteria to protect public health from pathogens in recreational coastal waters, which must be reviewed every 5 years. Unlike the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act does not require the use of best available science. That said, I believe it is always important to use best available science, particularly for science documents like water quality criteria documents.

80. Last Congress, our committee worked together to pass the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, a bill overhauling the toothless Toxic Substances Control Act, that was signed into law earlier this year. EPA is now responsible for implementing the law, which will require a significant amount of resources. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring EPA will prioritize implementation and has sufficient resources to comply with the requirements and timelines established by Congress?

As you are likely aware, I wrote this body a letter urging passage of the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act. If confirmed as EPA Administrator, I will take care that the Act is faithfully executed. A copy of that letter is attached.

81. Last year, the Toxic Substances Control Act was signed into law. There was little doubt that this bipartisan legislation was overdue and very necessary to protect our constituents. EPA has already announced they are fast-tracking five chemicals under the authority of the new TSCA regime. You mentioned during our meeting earlier this month that you were concerned with some of the more aggressive timelines included in this legislation. Please elaborate. Please also outline how you intend to support the Agency in ensuring they have the resources to comprehensively implement this landmark legislation.

The Lautenberg Act has a number of statutory deadlines that must be met by the Agency when carrying out the law. If confirmed I fully intend to pick up the process where the previous administration left off with completing the required rulemakings and initial chemical reviews as well as subsequent prioritizations. The updated law also allowed for updating the industry user fees used to fund the program, a process started by the previous administration, and one which I intend to quickly evaluate.

82. You have publicly supported the recent updates to the TSCA law. Since this legislation pre-empts state actions, how does that align with your views on states rights and federalism? Do you agree that federal environmental laws – such as the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule, TSCA and Clean Power Plan – also provide certainty to businesses that have to do business across the country?

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes." Unlike the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts which regulate pollutants TSCA regulates chemical substances manufactured for commerce in not only all 50 states but often globally. Federal preemption of states is appropriate when dealing with interstate commerce issues and the Lautenberg Act's preemption provisions comport to my views on states' rights and federalism for those reasons.

83. Do you think that companies that work in the U.S. and around the world should be able to hide chemical information here that they have given to governmental regulators elsewhere?

The Lautenberg Act amended Section 14 of TSCA to delineate a process by which to protect, review, and possibly make public chemical information. If confirmed I intend to implement the law as passed by Congress.

84. In a 2005 U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing, President-elect Trump publicly praised asbestos, calling it "the greatest fireproofing material ever made." Every major independent scientific organization, including the World Health Organization, the International Agency on Research for Cancer (IARC), and others, acknowledges asbestos as a known human carcinogen with no safe level of exposure. The US EPA spent years studying the dangers of asbestos, and ultimately attempted to ban most uses. Just last month, the EPA redoubled its stance on the dangerous nature of asbestos by designating it as a top-ten high-risk chemical for priority TSCA action. If confirmed, will you heed the decades of conclusive science about asbestos or

will you allow the President-elect's personal opinion skew the EPA's actions on asbestos?

The Lautenberg Act has extensive requirements for risk evaluations and the use of sound science in decisions throughout the chemical review and potential regulatory process. If confirmed I will implement the law following those statutory requirements.

85. You may be aware that asbestos use has drastically declined among industries that once used it heavily, including the construction and automotive sectors, as those industries began switching to safer substitutes. As a result, one industry now accounts for 90% of all asbestos consumed in the U.S. — the chlor-alkali industry, which uses asbestos diaphragms in its chlorine manufacturing process. The chlor-alkali industry has been the only point of public pushback against an asbestos ban under TSCA, and they have asked the EPA to exempt the chlor-alkali industry's use from any regulation on asbestos. Exempting the primary user from a restriction or ban, of course, would result in negligible impact. Will you commit to ensuring that any regulation or restriction on asbestos does not allow for any exemptions for the chlor-alkali industry or any other industry?

Asbestos has been identified by the EPA as a high-priority chemical that requires a risk evaluation following the process established by the Lautenberg Act to determine whether conditions of use of the chemical substance pose an unreasonable risk. Prejudging the outcome of that risk evaluation process would not be appropriate.

86. The EPA promulgated a ban on asbestos in 1989, after a decade of research, risk evaluation, and rulemaking. In 1991, the asbestos ban was overturned by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals on the grounds that the ban fell short of EPA's requirement to impose regulations that are "least burdensome" to industry. Under the Lautenberg Act reforms to TSCA, the EPA is now empowered to ban and regulate chemicals that are "toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative," like asbestos, without concern for industry cost or any other non-risk factor. Will you commit to ensuring that industry concerns are not considered during the risk evaluation and rule making processes regarding asbestos?

The Lautenberg Act requires notice and comment be provided at multiple stages of the chemical review process including prior to publishing a final risk evaluation and through any potential subsequent regulatory rulemaking. This notice and comment is designed to get the input of a wide range of stakeholders to ensure sound and inclusive rulemakings and not to produce or dismiss comments from one particular entity or interest.

87. On April 9, 2015, you wrote a letter in support of the Lautenberg Act reforms to TSCA. In this letter, you expressed your support for the EPA: "I believe the agency, within the boundaries of its authorities as provided by Congress, serves a valuable mission to protect human health and preserve the environment." During the writing, negotiations, and passage of the Lautenberg Act, Congress — and the sitting President — made explicitly clear their intentions that the newly empowered EPA should swiftly ban asbestos and other deadly toxins. How will you ensure the EPA is able to meet statutory TSCA deadlines set forth by Congress?

I am committed to implementing the Lautenberg Act as required by law including meeting the statutory deadlines enumerated in the law including the required rulemakings, risk evaluations, and future chemical prioritizations.

88. In your April 9, 2015 letter in support of the Lautenberg Act reforms, you specifically praised the bill's explicit protection of vulnerable populations, including workers. Asbestos is one of the leading workplace carcinogens, responsible for approximately half of all occupational cancer deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). During 1999 - 2014, the CDC NIOSH National Occupational Respiratory Mortality System (NORMS) database, there were 62,956 Americans who died from mesothelioma and asbestosis. These are just two of many deadly asbestos-related diseases. Given this data and your self-expressed concern for protecting workers, will you commit now to ensuring the EPA bans the import and use of asbestos under TSCA should you be confirmed?

Asbestos has been identified by the EPA as a high-priority chemical that requires a risk evaluation following the process established by the Lautenberg Act to determine whether conditions of use of the chemical substance pose an unreasonable risk. Prejudging the outcome of that risk evaluation process would not be appropriate.

89. Your home state of Oklahoma leads the nation in pesticide-related illnesses and deaths. At a time when pesticide/herbicide usage is on the rise across the country, how would you protect American workers, consumers, and landscapes from the toxic effects of agricultural chemicals?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would faithfully execute the laws administered by EPA. I would expect to be briefed by staff before taking any action on this issue.

90. What will you do to ensure EPA is conducting a transparent process regarding pesticide regulation? Please specify how you will approach notifying the public regarding pesticides in terms of notice of actions, publication of information (including studies and data) in the dockets, or timely responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act. If you do not believe in a transparent process, why not?

If confirmed, transparency and openness will be priorities, and I will work to ensure that the pesticide registration process complies with all public notice and transparency requirements under the law.

91. In June 2016 the White House Pollinator Health Task Force, which was co-chaired by the EPA, released the Pollinator Partnership Action Plan. Do you support this plan and EPA's role in it? If not, why not? Mr. Pruitt, do you agree that vulnerable populations, like pregnant women, infants, and children, must be specifically considered in the study of the impacts of toxic chemicals on human health? Why is this important?

I am not personally familiar with the report referenced in this question. In considering the health effects of chemicals, if confirmed as Administrator, I would expect to be briefed by EPA staff before taking action and would work to ensure EPA followed all applicable legal requirements and made its decisions based on sound science. If confirmed, I would also follow legal requirements regarding the use of science and consideration of health impacts on specific subpopulations.

92. For nearly a decade, a state-permitted coal ash disposal pit in Bokoshe, OK, operated by a company named "Making Money Having Fun," has caused severe air pollution through releases of fugitive dust, which have harmed residents of the town of Bokoshe. Encompassing 458 acres, the Making Money Having Fun pit covers 259 acres of a former coal mine with enough coal ash to fill the 70-foot-deep pit and create a miniature mountain stacked 50 feet high. The site is permitted to rise another 550 feet over the next 20 years. By 2036, the coal ash pit could hold 9.2 million tons of toxic waste. Since 1998, residents have complained about the toxic dust to state regulators. Residents of Bokoshe, particularly children, have experienced extremely high rates of asthma that are linked to high levels of fugitive dust. In addition, residents experience elevated cancer rates that may be linked to the dump site. In 2011, the CBS Nightly News covered the exposure of the community to toxic dust. See http://abcnews.go.com/US/oklahoma-town-fears-cancer-asthma-linked-dump-site/story?id=13303440. In 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acknowledged that there was a problem with fugitive dust at the site. Ash samples

collected in Bokoshe contained elevated levels of the carcinogens hexavalent chromium and arsenic, among other toxic metals. The Making Money Having Fun pit is not the only unlined coal ash dump in a former mine in Oklahoma. Seven miles west of Bokoshe, in McCurtain, OK, coal ash protrudes like an iceberg from a water-soaked pit. McCurtain residents have complained about dust clouds, spurring two state notices alleging violations — one in 2011 and another in 2015. State records show seven similar coal ash dump sites permitted in the county where Bokoshe is located.

•Did the Oklahoma AG Office ever investigate the Making Money Having Fun pit for environmental violations?

•Did your office take any actions to require Making Money Having Fun to control fugitive emissions at the site?

•As Oklahoma AG, what did your office do to investigate coal ash dumps in Oklahoma for violation of environmental or health standards?

The matter you reference was handled by Oklahoma's environmental regulators at the Department of Environmental Quality.

93. Mr. Pruitt, do you believe that all citizens in the U.S. should be equally protected from the threats posed by the dumping of coal ash? Currently, communities near municipal solid waste landfills and abandoned mines where millions of tons of toxic coal ash are disposed are not protected by the new federal coal ash rule. Do you think these communities deserve equal protection from pollution of their air, water and communities from coal ash?

I do not question the importance of clean air, land, and water, and I believe all Americans should be treated equally under the law.

94. Mr. Pruitt, do you think it is important for communities to know what hazardous substances are stored and disposed in their neighborhoods? Do you think it is important for citizens to know what hazardous substances are in their drinking water? If so, as head of EPA, will you guarantee that all coal ash permit programs approved by EPA will be as protective as the federal coal ash rule, including requiring communities be kept informed regarding the condition of toxic dumpsites near their homes and the safety of their drinking water?

As discussed in my testimony, public participation and transparency will be among my priorities if confirmed as Administrator. I do not question the importance of clean drinking water. It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge an issue that may come before me for decision if I am confirmed as Administrator. If the issue comes before me, I will ensure that the issue is

fully and fairly considered with input from staff, as part of a transparent process that seeks input from stakeholders, and that is consistent with EPA's statutory authorities, including the coal ash provision in the WIIN Act.

95. Mr. Pruitt, environmental justice organizations have noted that 70 percent of coal ash dumps are located in low-income, disadvantaged communities. Do you agree that these communities deserve to know if coal ash ponds are leaking toxic substances into their drinking water supplies? Do you agree that these citizens have a right to expect that their drinking water be free of pollution from coal ash impoundments?

I am not familiar with the reports referenced in the question. As my testimony indicates, if confirmed as Administrator, I will prioritize public participation and transparency. I believe all Americans should be treated equally under the law.

96. In recent years, spills, leaks and collapses of coal ash impoundments have become a greater and greater hazard to clean water. In fact, more than half of the total toxic water pollution found in America's rivers, lakes and streams comes from such impoundments. Do you believe that coal ash from power plants and other coal-burning facilities should be regulated as a hazardous pollutant, given that its chemical composition includes lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic? What would you do as Administrator to ensure that the kinds of ash spills recently devastating Kingston, Tennessee and Dan River, North Carolina, never again occur, anywhere?

I am generally aware that EPA has recently determined that coal ash from power plants should be regulated as a non-hazardous waste under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and supports that decision. I understand provisions of the WIIN Act recently passed by Congress and signed into law provides EPA and states additional authority concerning the regulation of coal ash through permit programs. If confirmed, I will work to ensure this new authority is implemented.

97. Mr. Pruitt, a growing body of scientific evidence has shown that people living near mountaintop removal coal mines face a number of increased health risks, including greater risk of cancer, birth defects, and premature death. If you are confirmed as EPA Administrator, how would your agency consider these health concerns?

If confirmed, I would consider human health in accordance with EPA's legal authorities.

98. Mr. Pruitt, do you believe that the people who live downstream from surface coal mining operations deserve to have their sources of drinking protected from contamination from toxic chemicals such as arsenic, selenium and lead?

I strongly believe in the importance of safe drinking water, and if confirmed as Administrator, will work to implement EPA's statutory authorities in this regard.

99. Mr. Pruitt, the Manhattan Project and the Cold War triggered a boom in uranium mining in the United States. Uranium mining was carried out under the 1872 Mining Law, which did not require mining companies to clean up the mines. Abandoned uranium and other hardrock mines litter the West. These abandoned mines leach toxic chemicals, including uranium, radium, radon, and arsenic into surface and ground waters that are sources of drinking water.

•Do you agree that there is insufficient funding to address the huge problem of abandoned uranium and other hardrock mines?

•Do you agree that the 1872 Mining Law must be reformed to provide funding for the cleanup of abandoned mines?

I have not studied the issue of whether the 1872 Mining Law should be reformed or whether there is sufficient funding to address the cleanup of abandoned mines. I am generally aware of questions about whether current environmental laws inhibit the cleanup of abandoned mines by Good Samaritans, but I would expect to be briefed by staff before considering any actions on this topic.

100. The EPA is responsible for overseeing the cleanup of some of our nation's most contaminated lands. One such site is the West Lake Landfill, a Superfund site located in Bridgeton, Missouri. This site has been contaminated since 1973 when soils were mixed with residues from the Manhattan Project and used as daily cover in the landfilling operation. Local residents are rightfully concerned and frustrated by delays at the EPA in determining a proper course of action for handling this radioactive waste. In the 114th Congress the Senate unanimously passed legislation that would transfer the remediation authority for West Lake to the Army Corps of Engineers' Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP is already successfully overseeing the cleanup of nuclear contamination at other sites in the St. Louis area. However, as of this moment, the authority over the West Lake site remains with the EPA. Please explain your

views on the EPA's authority and responsibility with regard to the cleanup of Superfund sites.

•If you are confirmed as the next EPA Administrator, would you support transferring the cleanup of sites like the West Lake Landfill to FUSRAP? Why or why not?

•If you support cleanup authority remaining with the EPA, what concrete steps would you pursue as Administrator to ensure that the agency is progressing toward a real solution at the site that protects both the environment and the health of area residents?

I am not familiar with this particular issue or the legislation that is referenced in the question, but I appreciate the interests that residents have in the efficient operation of the Superfund program and the clean up of contaminated sites in their community. It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge an issue that may come before me for decision if I am confirmed as Administrator. If the issue comes before me, I will ensure that the issue is fully and fairly considered, as part of a transparent process that seeks input from all stakeholders.

101. Do you believe that if safer technologies or chemicals are available for a facility to use, that could prevent a serious chemical disaster, that the facility should be required to implement them to save lives, prevent injuries of workers, first-responders, and community members, and prevent serious economic damages from a disaster?

I believe workplace safety is very important and any potential regulatory decisions should be carefully examined through a open and transparent process to ensure facilities are not shifting to new chemicals or technologies that improve safety in one area but shift risks to create new and potentially more serious concerns.

102. Do you believe that federal agencies like the EPA have an obligation to consult Native American tribes when actions by the agencies could impact tribal sovereignty or the tribal trust relationship?

Yes, I believe that consultation is a sound practice that should occur whenever possible.

103. Indigenous communities are consistently targeted for energy extraction, nuclear waste, uranium mining and/or oil and natural gas pipelines. How will you address this moving forward?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress imposing obligations on me in this regard. Whenever possible, I will consult with Indian Tribes prior to taking actions that may affect their sovereign interests.

104. As Administrator, what steps will you take to ensure that EPA and other federal agencies are complying with Executive Order 12989 on Environmental Justice?

I am not familiar with what steps EPA has or has not taken undertaken to implement this Executive Order. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that EPA complies with all applicable Executive Orders.

105. In January 2015, EPA issued its final rule under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act defining what is a solid waste for purposes of ensuring that the recycling of hazardous materials does not increase the risk of harm to people or the environment, known as the "Definition of Solid Waste" or "DSW" rule. As an integral part of the rulemaking on the DSW rule, EPA conducted an environmental justice analysis of the rule's protectiveness for minority and low-income populations. EPA published its detailed environmental justice analysis report on the DSW Rule with the final rule. Will you ensure that EPA conduct detailed environmental justice analysis on all significant rules that may have adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations and publish such reports along with the final rules?

I am not familiar with the environmental justice analysis referenced in this question. If confirmed, I will work to ensure EPA conducts the required analysis to support its regulatory actions in accordance with applicable statutory requirements and Executive Orders.

106. There are currently some forty pending civil enforcement actions in which EPA is discussing possible settlement terms or pursuit of litigation. In the past during a transition in power such pending actions have proceeded unimpeded. Will you follow this precedent and let them progress at their own pace or will you intervene? And, if you do opt to intervene on a case-by-case basis, what criteria will you use to determine which enforcement cases go forward and which do not?

I am unfamiliar with the specific details of the actions referenced in the question. I would expect to be briefed by staff, in consultation with the Department of Justice as appropriate, before taking any action.

107. Please provide a list of all financial contributors to your attorney general and state senate campaigns, including their total donations and affiliations.

A full list of contributors to my campaigns for the state senate and attorney general may be found at the Oklahoma Ethics Commission's websites. For state campaign committees from 2002-2014, please use this site: https://www.ok.gov/ethics/public/candidate.php. For 2015 to the present, the Commission uses this site: http://guardian.ok.gov/PublicSite/SearchPages/Search.aspx?SearchTypeCodeHook=1F26BA5E-71EA-48E4-8D50-C1013E9FE0A7. Attached is a letter from the Oklahoma Ethics Commission regarding materials prior to 2002.

108. Why did you initially refuse a formal, independent audit of your office's finances from the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector as mandated by Oklahoma law? Please provide a copy of the findings of the 2016 audit.

I did not refuse an audit. I requested that an independent auditor conduct the audit, rather than the State Auditor. The State Auditor ultimately agreed to not participate in the audit, and the audit was completed. The results are publicly available.

109. Do you know Mr. Fount Holland of A.H. Strategies? If so, what is your relationship?

I am familiar with Mr. Holland. I have no relationship with him.

110. Do you know Continental Resources CEO Harold Hamm and if so, what is your relationship with him?

Yes. Harold Hamm is a friend.

111. You were a board member of the Rule of Law Defense Fund from November 2015 to November 2016. As a nonprofit, that organization doesn't have to disclose its donors. But the tax filings of the Koch brothers' Freedom Partners Foundation show that it contributed $175,000 of the group's $885,000 in 2014, nearly 20

percentage the total. Was the Koch brothers' Freedom Partner's Foundation the largest contributor to the Rule of Law Defense Fund? Did that Foundation have any say with respect to the Fund's activities?

I have no knowledge of whether the Freedom Partners' donation was the largest contributor to Rule of Law Defense Fund. I have resigned as Chairman and as a board member, and those records are kept by the staff of Rule of Law Defense Fund. RLDF's policies at the time I was a board member were that donors did not have any say with respect to the fund's activities.

112. The Rule of Law Defense Fund is an affiliate of the Republican Attorneys General Association, which has received more than $2.25 million in funding from fossil fuel interests since 2015—money that goes primarily to help elect GOP attorneys general, according to an analysis of its activities by the Center for Media and Democracy. What are the fossil fuel-related activities of the Fund? Has the Fund supported or undertaken any public interest or environmental protection activities?

To my knowledge, RLDF has facilitated policy discussion on a wide range of issues, including many public interest and environmental protection issues, some of which may have some nexus to matters involving fossil fuels.

113. The Huffington Post reported this week that two election fundraising groups, Oklahoma Strong and Liberty 2.0, both linked to you spent at least $637,034 since the start of 2015, even though you couldn't run for re-election as Oklahoma attorney general. These groups disbursed an average of roughly $26,543 per month, both of which announced plans last week to shut down. Would you describe for the Committee where these funds went? Is the Huffington Post's characterization that these funds money went to consultants and travel correct? And what were the specific activities conducted with these funds?

I do not have any knowledge of where remaining funds from Oklahoma Strong PAC or Liberty 2.0 went after the entities closed. Both entities are managed by a staff and decisions are made independently of me.

114. Has Oklahoma Strong or Liberty 2.0 taken money from the fossil fuel industry?

This question would have to be directed to those that operate those entities.

115. Has any of the special interest money gone to other Attorneys General that may or may not sue the EPA if you are confirmed?

Without additional context to help me understand your question, I cannot answer it.

116. Has any of this special interest money gone to any member of the EPW Committee that will vote on your confirmation and serve as your oversight committee in the Senate if you are confirmed?

Without additional context to help me understand your question, I cannot answer it. In any event, I have no knowledge of the fundraising activities of the members of this committee.

117. Before being confirmed, will you disclose who has contributed to the Oklahoma Strong PAC and Liberty 2.0 Super PAC?

I do not personally have records of who has contributed to Oklahoma Strong PAC or Liberty 2.0 Super PAC. That information is publicly available on campaign finance reports, and in the possession of the staff of those entities.

118. Please provide the dates and the name of every event you attended as attorney general that was hosted by energy companies, energy representatives, energy lobbyists, or political action committees (PACs) that have energy donors.

Please see attached list.

119. For each listed matter in which the State of Oklahoma has been a litigant or petitioner against the EPA, please provide any and all documents (including any and all written or electronic correspondence, audiotapes, electronic records, videotapes, photographs, telephone messages, voice mail messages, e-mails, facsimiles, daily agendas and calendars, information about meetings and/or discussions, whether in-person or over the telephone, agendas, minutes and a list of participants for those meetings and/or discussions, and transcripts and notes of any such meetings and/or discussions) from the date on which your office first began to prepare the litigation at hand, to the date of this letter, between you (or other employees of your office) and each representative of each non-

governmental entity with whom you (or your office) communicated about the litigation.

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office under the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

120. Of the total outlays from the Attorney General's office during your tenure, what percentage of your office's expenditures in Oklahoma went toward suing the federal government or challenging federal regulations?

My understanding is that less than one percent of the Office of the Attorney General's budget has been for litigation involving legal challenges to federal actions.

121. How many legal cases did your predecessor bring against industry in Oklahoma or other states for violating federal or state environmental protections? How many similar cases have you brought during your tenure? Please identify each such case brought under your tenure, the nature of the violation alleged, and the result achieved, including any penalties assessed and collected.

I do not know how many cases were brought by my predecessor. The Department of Environmental Quality is primarily responsible for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma. The Office of Attorney General has historically had a limited role, compared to the Department of Environmental Quality, in litigating environmental enforcement cases. Information about environmental cases attorneys in my office have litigated during my tenure is included in this response.

122. Do the Oklahoma Strong PAC and Liberty 2.0 Super PAC continue to operate from your state campaign headquarters in Tulsa? What is your connection to either of these political action committees? Do any of your former campaign employees work for either of these political action committees, if so, who and for what period of time?

It is my understanding that both entities have been wound down. I previously served as Honorary Chairman of Oklahoma Strong PAC, I have not served in any similar role with Liberty 2.0. My understanding is that there have been common vendors between Oklahoma Strong PAC and my previous campaigns, but I am not personally aware of any contracts those

vendors might have with the PACs, so your question regarding the details of any such relationships would need to be directed to the PACs or the vendors.

123. How much money have fossil fuel interests given to the Republican Attorneys Generals Association during the duration of your service in the leadership of that organization?

Other issues

Records of fundraising for that organization are kept with the staff of the Republican Attorneys General Association, and are also disclosed on campaign finance reports filed by that entity. I am not aware how much money has been donated to RAGA or from whom.

124. At a time of state budget cuts in Oklahoma, why did the attorney general's office expenditures increase from $28 million to $37.5 million under your leadership?

The budget cuts you refer to relate to reductions in the appropriations that each agency receives from the Legislature. I believe the Office of Attorney General has seen its appropriation from the Legislature cut every year since 2014, culminating in an appropriation of $0 this last fiscal year. What can lead to confusion is the fact that the appropriation from the Legislature makes up only a portion of the Office of Attorney General's budget, and the Office's budget and expenditures can fluctuate greatly year over year depending on the timing of case settlements and related distributions. For example in fiscal year 2014, the Attorney General's Office distributed higher than normal case settlement funds that inflated the budget over typical levels. Conversely, that total came down in fiscal years 2015 and 2016. Thus, fluctuations such as the one assumed by your question do not accurately reflect the size of the Office's budget. In my tenure as Attorney General, the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General streamlined legal services for dozens of agencies, returned $29 million to the General Revenue Fund, distributed mortgage settlement restitution funds to impacted citizens, strengthened tobacco enforcement, and led the Office in such a fiscally responsible manner that the Office was able to forego all $6.4 million in state-appropriated operating funds for fiscal year 2017--that in addition to the Office having its annual appropriation cut in every prior year. The Office of Attorney General was the only state agency to voluntarily do this. During my tenure, the Office assumed the statutory duties of the Human Rights Commission through our Office of Civil Rights Enforcement, strengthened tobacco settlement enforcement efforts, and launched the Solicitor General's Unit. The Office also increased by one third the number

of agencies, commissions, or boards which it represents. This has led to a precipitous decline in state agency usage of costly private counsel. It is these and other efforts that have permitted the Office to contribute approximately $29 million to the General Revenue Fund over the last six years.

125. Do you think the upwind or upstream states of Oklahoma would be willing to impose more stringent environmental protections because of the adverse impacts certain activities in their state might have on Oklahomans? Have they ever done so on their own?

The Department of Environmental Quality has primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma. As Attorney General, I do not have responsibility or authority for setting environmental policy for the State and do not have the specific information at issue in this question.

126. Do your views on federalism expand beyond the EPA? For example, were you against the recently passed legislation that pre-empted states from labeling GMO foods? If not, why not?

I did not have an opinion on the GMO labeling legislation, however, I view that it is a similar matter to the Lautenberg Act reforms to TSCA which we supported despite its pre-empting state regulation, because it provides certainty nation-wide to regulations and often a consensus federal standard.

127. You campaigned in 2010 against a "one-size-fits-all strategy" towards environmental protection. That phrase is sometimes used to imply that whether American children should be adequately - or inadequately - protected against poisonous air, water and food should be based on the political jurisdiction in which they happen to live. Is that what you meant - that air and water health standards should vary from state to state? Do children's hearts or senior's lungs vary in their vulnerability to pollution between Oklahomans and Californians? Do you accept the premise at the heart of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts that every American, wherever they live, should have a science based, legally guaranteed right to clean air, pure water and healthy food? Or do you think these decisions should be made by local politicians based on interest group lobbying?

I strongly believe in the importance of clean air, water, and land. Many of the environmental laws passed by Congress, including the Clean Air Act, are based on a framework of cooperative federalism by which states

administer programs authorized or delegated by EPA in order to implement these authorities. If confirmed, I will support open and transparent regulatory processes and base decisions on sound science in accordance with EPA's legal authorities.

128. How do you plan to consider costs in reviewing national ambient air quality standards? Do you agree with Justice Scalia's opinion in Whitman v. American Trucking Associations that it is "fairly clear that [the Clean Air Act] does not permit the EPA to consider costs in setting the standards."

I agree that the Supreme Court's decision in Whitman v. American Trucking Associations confirms that the Clean Air Act does not allow the Administrator to consider costs in setting the NAAQS.

129. Do you believe that economic or cost-benefit analysis should ever be used to decide how much toxic pollution children should breathe or drink; many lives EPA should save; how many children should get cancer or asthma just because they live near a polluting factory?

As I stated in my testimony, I fundamentally believe in EPA's core mission of protecting the American people. Environmental statutes, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, prescribe certain instances where a cost-benefit analysis may be considered in a rulemaking. If confirmed, I commit to fully carry out EPA's core mission and follow the law as provided by Congress.

130. Every year during your tenure as Oklahoma Attorney General, the American Lung Association gave Oklahoma counties a failing grade for not meeting ozone air pollution health standards. In fact, your home town of Tulsa is ranked 18th out of 228 metropolitan areas for high alert ozone days. Are you concerned about the impacts of soot and smog pollution on Oklahoma citizens? What efforts have you undertaken as Oklahoma Attorney General to protect Oklahomans from soot and smog pollution?

While I am concerned about children's health, matters of the sort you reference would be handled by Oklahoma's environmental regulators at the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

131. If confirmed, do you commit to protecting scientific research conducted and funded by the EPA? Will you continue EPA's long-standing practice of protecting the confidentiality of health records of individual patients that participate in scientific studies?

If confirmed, it will look forward to working with EPA's scientists and the thousands of other public servants at EPA. If confirmed, I would expect to learn more about the existing practice and relevant legal authorities concerning the confidentiality of scientific data before taking action.

132. Do you agree with this statement from NASA: "97 percent or more of actively publishing climate scientists agree: Climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities." If not, please explain why you do not agree.

I have no reason to disagree with NASA's statement, although I have not made any attempt to independently verify its accuracy.

133. Please provide a list of all the cases, briefs and other legal actions that your office has filed while you have served as attorney general.

Please see attached list.

134. How many legal cases have you filed, or joined others in filing, against the EPA? Please provide a full list with the outcome of each case, including those cases in which the court disagreed with your argument, agreed with your argument, and those in which the court refused to hear the matter.

Enclosed is a list of the relevant cases. The relevant court opinions, judgments, or orders are the best source of information about how these cases were disposed.

135. It is my understanding that you currently have nine cases pending against the EPA on behalf of the State of Oklahoma. Is this correct? Will you recuse yourself from participation in these cases if you are confirmed? If not, why not? Will you recuse yourself from settlement discussions? If not, why not? Will you recuse yourself from decision making on altering or revising the regulations that are impacted by these pending cases? If not, why not? What are the recusal requirements of the Oklahoma Bar Association governing similar situations?

Please see attached list of cases. Immediately upon my nomination, I was walled off from all involvement in any litigation or other matters the State of Oklahoma is pursuing involving the EPA. I have disclosed relevant matters to the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials. As EPA Administrator I will recuse from participation in litigation in matters in which I represented the State of Oklahoma, unless I receive informed consent from the State of Oklahoma and the permission of relevant federal ethics officials. It is my understanding that recusal obligations do not extend to regulatory rulemaking of general applicability, which does not create a conflict under applicable rules.

136. If confirmed, do you plan on proposing or advocating for budget cuts to the EPA's FY 2018 budget? If so, in which programs would you reduce funding? Would you target the EPA's research programs? Are there areas of agency action where you believe additional financial resources are needed?

I have no first-hand knowledge of EPA's development of its FY 2018 budget request. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the limited resources appropriated to EPA by Congress are managed wisely in pursuit of that important mission and in accordance with all applicable legal authorities.

137. It is my understanding that prior to you taking office, there was an Environmental Protection Unit within the Oklahoma Attorney General's office. Is that correct?

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality is the State agency responsible for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma.

138. It is my understanding that after you took office, the Environmental Protection Unit within the Oklahoma Attorney General's office was eliminated. Is that correct? Can you explain why the work of this unit was discontinued? Did the work continue in another section of your office? If so, who continued to do that work and for what period of time?

My office continues to employ attorneys vested with responsibilities related to environmental protection, including the attorney who served as the lead attorney on the previous attorney general's "environmental protection unit." That attorney's responsibilities remain unchanged (he has been promoted, in fact), and he pursues exactly the kind of cases that he pursued under the previous attorney general. The only thing that changed was the internal

organization of the attorneys vested with those responsibilities, because I concluded (consistent with the practices of every attorney general in the State's history but for my immediate predecessor) that it was not operationally efficient to have a separate unit for such work. Thus, I chose to house that work in the Office's Public Protection Unit and then later in the Solicitor General's Unit. As I explained in my testimony to the committee, my office continues to pursue environmental cases. I do not possess lists of cases pursued my predecessor so I cannot provide the comparative that you request. I am aware that many environmental cases take many, many years to litigate to completion, so some of the actions that my Office continues to pursue were initiated prior to my taking office. Please see attached list of cases.

139. In your cases against the EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Rule, who served as your scientific advisor for the case?

The Office of Attorney General does not have a science advisor.

140. Please provide your definition of cooperative federalism.

Cooperative federalism occurs when the federal government works cooperatively with state and local governments to address issues of national concern. Federalism is not cooperative when the federal government mandates or coerces state and local governments into effectuating federal policies.

141. Provide examples of times the EPA has intervened and required a state to do more than the state intended and you supported the EPA's actions.

The water quality crisis in Flint is one where EPA should have acted faster in accordance with its legal authorities in consultation with the State.

142. You are quoted in an interview this past November saying "we hope there is going to be regulatory rollback...Well when you look at the EPA, and the role it's played over the last several years, there's going to be substantial change in that agency." Which EPA regulations do you believe should be rolled back? What changes do you believe should occur in the EPA? Which EPA regulations should be maintained?

Based on the limited information provided in the question, I am uncertain what interview it is referring to. However, if confirmed as Administrator, I

will take my responsibility to protect human health and the environment for all Americans with the highest possible dedication and commitment. The actions undertaken by the Office of Attorney General challenging certain EPA regulations have been because EPA exceeded it legal authorities as established by Congress and interpreted by the courts. Regulations that are not on solid legal foundation and that cannot survive judicial review will not result in environmental protections.

143. In your testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in May 2015, you stated that the EPA "has played an important role in addressing water and air quality issues that transverse state lines." Since you became attorney general, hasn't your state sued against EPA regulations that address cross-state air and water pollution? What are the most significant sources of interstate pollution and what are the most important actions the EPA can take to address them?

As my testimony indicates, I firmly believe that the EPA plays an important role in addressing interstate water and air quality issues, but it must do so within the bounds of its legal authority. The actions undertaken by the Office of Attorney General challenging certain EPA regulations have been because EPA exceeded it legal authorities as established by Congress and interpreted by the courts.

144. Do you believe the EPA has, in your words "exceeded the constraints placed upon the agency by Congress" by issuing the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule? If so, please explain.

Based on the limited information in the question, the source or context of the quote to which the question refers is not readily apparent. Twenty one states filed a petition with the Supreme Court to review EPA's Mercury Air Toxics Standards. The Supreme Court held that the EPA was required to consider costs as part of its decision whether to regulate power plants under section 112. I agree with the Supreme Court's conclusion.

145. Do you support states taking further public health protective actions beyond those required by EPA regulations?

Yes—if authorized under the law and not preempted or displaced by federal law.

146. Do you agree with the EPA's legal interpretation of the Clean Water Act and share the view the agency has federal jurisdiction over wetlands and streams that impact the health of downstream navigable waters? If you do not agree, please explain.

The EPA takes a broader view of its jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act than the question suggests. A federal court appeals has held that the EPA's interpretation of its jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act is likely unlawful. I agree with that court's conclusion.

147. Would you explain the basis for your recent challenges to EPA's finding that it is appropriate and necessary to regulate the emissions of carbon dioxide and hazardous air pollutants from power plants?

The particular matters being asked about are unclear from the limited information in the question. As discussed in response to Questions 27 and 35, the state of Oklahoma, along with many other states, filed petitions for review challenging EPA regulations in matters where EPA has exceeded its statutory authority as established by Congress and interpreted by the courts. The standard for regulating under section 111 of the Clean Air Act is whether in the Administrator's judgment a category of sources "causes, or contributes significantly, to air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare." The standard for regulating under section 112(n) of the Clean Air Act is if "the Administrator finds such regulation is appropriate and necessary after considering the results of the study required by this subparagraph." The briefs filed by the state petitioners are the best statements of the legal arguments being made and speak for themselves.

148. As attorney general, what types of environmental justice cases have you pursued? Please provide a list of cases and outcomes. What is your view of EPA's mission in regard to environmental justice?

As discussed elsewhere in these responses, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality is the state agency with primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma. As I testified, I believe the Administrator plays an important role regarding environmental justice. Attached is a list of environmental cases brought under my tenure.

149. In a 2013 press statement, you stated "the evidence is clear that the current ethanol fuel mandate is unworkable." Would you explain what you meant at this time?

Based on the limited information in the question, the context of the quote referenced in the question is not readily apparent. If confirmed, my duty as EPA Administrator would be to enforce the laws passed by this body.

150. In your joint brief against the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, it stated "human exposure to methylmercury resulting from coal fired EGUs (Electric Generating Units) is exceedingly small." What is the scientific basis for this statement? Do you continue to agree with this assessment?

Based on the limited information in the question, the source or context of the quote to which the question refers is not readily apparent. Twenty one states filed a petition with the Supreme Court to review EPA's Mercury Air Toxics Standards. The legal question in that case was a narrow one focused on whether EPA was required to consider costs before it imposed regulations on power plants under section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

151. The EPA is responsible for administering two of the nation's most important infrastructure investment programs- the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs). Unfortunately, water and sewer infrastructure in this country continues to deteriorate and investment is sorely needed. The American Society of Civil Engineers rates our wastewater and drinking water infrastructure a "D." If confirmed, what will you do to ensure that the federal government is adequately investing in our nation's wastewater and drinking water infrastructure?

If confirmed, I will continue support for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds and the new Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act loan program. In addition, I would continue to implement EPA's Integrated Planning Framework to provide municipalities with flexibility to prioritize actions they take to come into compliance.

Senator Duckworth:

1. During your confirmation hearing, we discussed the ongoing petitions requesting EPA initiate a rulemaking to reconsider or change the regulations identifying refiners and importers of gasolines and diesel fuel as the entities responsible for complying with the annual percentage standards adopted under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. I am specifically concerned with harmful proposals to move the point of obligation from refiners and importers to entities that blend renewable fuel into transportation fuel. Moving the point of obligation from refiners to blenders would disrupt a component of the RFS program that has worked well for the past 10 years. This harmful proposal is opposed by a broad range of stakeholders, including organizations that represent blenders, and it would undermine Congress' goal in creating the RFS program by likely decreasing the production, distribution and use of renewable fuels in the United States.

- If confirmed as EPA Administrator, will you commit to denying any petition requesting EPA change the RFS point of obligation, including requests to move the point of obligation from refiners to blenders?
- Please provide all statements you have made, whether in writing or verbally, expressing your view on the RFS point of obligation.

As I indicated in my testimony, the EPA's RIN framework is currently the subject of a pending notice-and-comment rulemaking. If confirmed as Administrator, I would take care to administer the RFS program, including the RIN framework, in accordance with Congress's statutory objectives, and based on the evidence in the EPA's administrative record, as well as the expertise of EPA staff and the expertise of other federal agencies relevant to the RIN framework and affected markets. The EPA already has entered into a "memorandum of understanding" with the CFTC, "on the sharing of information available to EPA related to the functioning of renewable fuel and related markets."

Senator Gillibrand:

1. Assuming that costs should be considered in rulemakings, do you believe that externality costs – for example costs to society from impacts of a pollutant -- should be considered in addition to the financial costs of compliance?

As I stated at the hearing, costs are important in the rulemaking process and the Courts have recognized that important factor. Environmental statutes, such as the Clean Air Act, prescribe when costs should be considered in a rulemaking. If confirmed, I commit to fully follow the law as provided by Congress.

2. New York has the toughest acid rain regulations for power plants in the nation, but the acid rain that has affected the Adirondacks is predominately caused by emissions from Midwestern coal-fired power plants. The scientific data collected as part of a long-term and robust acid rain monitoring program of Adirondack lakes and streams provides the evidence that the sulfur dioxide trading program under the Clean Air Act has been a cost effective method to reduce sulfur dioxide from the atmosphere. This regulatory strategy was implemented without a detrimental economic effect. Is the regulatory strategy outlined above: strong federal standards coupled with even stronger state standards an example of the "meaningful role" you envision for EPA and the "useful role of the states?"

As I stated at the hearing, costs are very important in the rulemaking process and the Courts have recognized that important factor. Environmental statutes, such as the Clean Air Act, prescribe when costs should be considered in a rulemaking. If confirmed, I commit to fully follow the law as provided by Congress.

3. EPA promulgated the Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) in 2011 and an update to the rule in September 2016. How will you implement CSAPR and the update rules?

The Cross-State Air Pollution Rule is a regulation that is currently in effect and, as such, constitutes a binding regulation. So long as that rule remains in force, I will faithfully execute the law and enforce obligations under it.

4. What strategy will you pursue to ensure upwind emissions do not affect the ability of downwind states to meet air quality standards, per Section 110(a)(2)(D) of the Clean Air Act?

As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, I agree that the Clean Air Act gives EPA an important role in addressing interstate pollution issues, among many other things. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will exercise my authority in this area consistent with Congress's intent in enacting the Act. Specifically with respect to Section 110(a)(2)(D) and the "good neighbor" obligations of Section 110, I intend to engage in a transparent process that will allow states to have a meaningful opportunity to understand their obligations with regard to reducing emissions that cause or contribute to nonattainment or interference with maintenance in other states through the SIP process and to act consistent with my authority under Section 110(c) if states fail to do so.

5. What is EPA's role in resolving disputes regarding the transport of pollutants between states?

As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, I agree that the Clean Air Act gives EPA an important role in addressing interstate pollution issues, among many other things. I strongly believe in states working collaboratively to address crossborder environmental challenges and did so when I was the Attorney General of Oklahoma, including negotiating a historic agreement with my Democratic counterpart in the State of Arkansas to reduce pollutants into the scenic Illinois River. As Administrator, I intend to provide assistance to states as they work collaboratively in these issues. Where the Act contemplates a more direct role for EPA, such as with respect to Section 110(a)(2)(D) and the "good neighbor" obligations of Section 110, I intend to engage in a transparent process that will allow states to have a meaningful opportunity to understand their obligations with regard to reducing emissions that cause or contribute to nonattainment or interference with maintenance in other states through the SIP process

6. What specific actions have you taken as Oklahoma Attorney General to protect Oklahoma's children from exposure to air pollution?

While I am also concerned about children's health, environmental regulation in Oklahoma is the responsibility of Oklahoma's environmental regulators at agencies like the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. That agency would likely be better situated to answer your question by actions taken by the State with regard to air pollution.

7. Does state sovereignty includes a state's authority to combat impacts to air and water from pollution generated in other states?

Yes.

8. The EPA Clean Air Science Advisory Committee currently fills a role that The Clean Air Act requires; this role is that of an independent scientific committee to advise the Administrator regarding any possible revisions to the national standards (NAAQS). That advisory committee has stated on record that the ozone NAAQS should be more protective than the current standards. Will you follow the advice of the advisory committee as Administrator?

I agree that the Clean Air Act assigns the advisory committee a role in advising the Administrator regarding the promulgation and revision of NAAQS. If confirmed as Administrator, I will follow a transparent process that is legally and scientifically sound in all NAAQS decisions, including consideration of the views of the advisory committee.

9. What role will the opinions of that advisory committee play in any decision-making you might have to do regarding review of and revisions to the NAAQS?

I agree that the Clean Air Act assigns the advisory committee a role in advising the Administrator regarding the promulgation and revision of NAAQS. If confirmed as Administrator, I will follow a transparent process that is legally and scientifically sound in all NAAQS decisions, including consideration of the views of the advisory committee.

10. In the April 22, 2016 State Petitioners' Opening Brief that you signed seeking to vacate EPA's primary NAAQS of 70 ppm, you wrote that "that EPA must consider the burden of a NAAQS." What did you mean by the burden of a NAAQS?

The Clean Air Act requires the Administrator to establish NAAQS that protect public health and welfare from adverse effects, allowing an adequate margin of safety, and to revise those standards as appropriate. This includes establishing NAAQS at a level that is "requisite," which the Supreme Court has interpreted as being neither more nor less stringent than necessary to protect public health. The State Petitioners' Opening Brief, particularly in Section II of the Argument portion, the part of the brief to which the quotation in your question is relevant, argues that the ozone NAAQS is arbitrary and capricious because it fails to interpret the Act in a manner that ensures the standard is "requisite." As I have explained elsewhere in my testimony to the Committee and in response to the Committee's written questions, all legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in an advocacy

capacity. If confirmed as Administrator, I will consider all matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

11.What is the burden on individuals who are exposed to, and suffer health effects from, air pollution if NAAQS are not strong enough to protect public health?

The Clean Air Act requires the Administrator to establish NAAQS that protect public health and welfare from adverse effects, allowing an adequate margin of safety, and to revise those standards as appropriate. Individuals exposed to pollutant concentrations that are above the NAAQS may suffer adverse health effects, the specifics of which vary depending on the pollutant at issue.

12.How will you take into consideration the cost of pollution on human health when taking regulatory action?

As I stated in my testimony, if confirmed, my primary goal would be to protect the American people through lawful regulations. I also indicated at the hearing that costs are very important in the rulemaking process and the Courts have recognized that important factor. I understand environmental statutes, such as the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, prescribe when costs should be considered in the rulemaking process. If confirmed, I commit to fully follow the law as provided by Congress.

13.New York is very concerned with the interstate transport of ozone and particulate matter, which cause death and illness in our state and damages our natural resources, but also interferes with New York's ability to meet its legal obligation to attain the national standards set by EPA. Can ground-level ozone or its precursor, nitrogen oxides, can be generated in one state and reduce air quality in another state?

Yes.

14.Can fine particulate matter or its precursors, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide, be generated in one state and reduce air quality in another state?

Yes.

15.EPA's regulatory impact analysis enumerated numerous important categories of mercury benefits that the agency found couldn't be monetized, such as the impacts of mercury on non-IQ neurological impacts (including developmental

delays, effects on attention/behavior, effects on motor skills, effects on memory); cardiovascular impacts; genotoxic, immunologic, and other toxic effects.

- Do you agree that mercury has these impacts?
- Do you agree that the benefits of reducing these impacts are valuable?
- Do you think that avoided harms, like reducing childhood development delays, need to be monetized to count as part of a cost-benefit analysis?
- Do you agree that consideration of a monetized cost-benefit analysis that does not include these benefits because they cannot be monetized is an incomplete picture of the costs and benefits of reducing mercury emissions?

I agree that as Administrator, it is appropriate to consider both the monetized benefits of regulation and benefits that cannot be monetized. Likewise, where appropriate in light of Congress's intent in enacting each Clean Air Act provision, I agree that it is appropriate to consider both the monetized costs of regulation and any other negative impacts, regardless of whether those can be monetized. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will exercise my authority consistent with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

16. In your comments at the EPW nomination hearing, you claimed that your challenges to the mercury standards were entirely procedural in nature.

- In your brief challenging the original mercury standard, you asserted that "the record does not support EPA's findings that mercury, non-mercury HAP metals, and acid gas HAPs pose public health hazards." Explain how this is a procedural claim.
- In your brief challenging the original mercury standard, you asserted that "EPA's EGU MACT standards are unlawful under §112(n)(1)(A)." Explain how this is a procedural claim.
- In signing the original petitioners' brief, were you just advocating for a client? Or do you continue to believe all the positions argued in the original petitioners' brief are correct?
- In your brief challenging EPA's supplemental finding, you asserted that "EPA must consider costs in relation to benefits to justify its 'appropriate and necessary' determination." Explain how this is a procedural claim.
- In your brief challenging EPA's supplemental finding, you asserted that EPA's "'alternative' benefit-cost approach is also invalid because it is based on the 'Co-Benefits' of reducing pollutants other than HAPs." Explain how this is a procedural claim.
- In your brief challenging EPA's supplemental finding, you asserted that "EPA's refusal to consider alternative control strategies and all relevant costs, is contrary

to the statute and the Supreme Court's direction." Explain how this is a procedural claim.

In my testimony, when I stated that Oklahoma's challenges were procedural in nature, I was referring to whether EPA acted consistent with law and the record in following the procedure set forth for regulating electric utility steam generating units under Section 112(n) of the Act. That procedure required EPA, taking into account certain information, to determine whether regulating the sources under Section 112 is appropriate and necessary.

17.When filing briefs for Oklahoma in the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard litigation, Clean Power Plan litigation, and other litigation against EPA that you joined as Attorney General, were you just advocating for a client? Or do you continue to believe all the positions argued in your briefs are correct?

As I stated in my testimony to the committee, all legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in an advocacy capacity. If confirmed as Administrator, I will consider all matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

18.The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) was launched in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the largest system of fresh surface water in the world — the Great Lakes. EPA is a critical member and lead of the GLRI Task Force and Regional Working Group. This coordination in partnership with the states has produced unprecedented results, with GRLI resources funding over 2,000 projects to improve water quality, protecting and restoring native habitat and species, preventing and controlling invasive species, and addressing other Great Lakes environmental problems. Under your leadership, will the GLRI continue to be a top priority?

If confirmed, I will continue EPA's support for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which was formally authorized by Congress in December 2016.

19.Will you support an annual appropriation of at least $300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative?

I note that $300 million has been the annual appropriation for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for the past several years, even though the prior Administration proposed to cut that funding to $250 million. Three hundred

million also is the Congressional authorized level of funding. If confirmed, I will take into account that funding history and Congressional authorization when making recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget regarding EPA's appropriations.

20.New York is suffering from infestations of invasive species such as the emerald ash borer and zebra mussel, which have large impacts in the state. EPA has been an important ally in our efforts, and has a number of programs that fight invasive species. What is your view on EPA's role in fighting invasive species, and do you believe EPA should commit more resources, fewer resources, or about the same amount of resources to this issue?

I am not aware of the state of invasive species in New York. If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by staff on this issue before taking any action consistent with EPA's legal authorities.

21. Does climate change have an impact on the spread of invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer, in New York State?

I am not familiar with the state of invasive species in New York.

22.Should states continue to have the sovereign authority to set their own ballast water discharge standards to protect the environment from the spread of invasive species?

The issue of federal preemption of state ballast water discharge regulations is a question for Congress, not the Administrator of the EPA. If confirmed, I will carry out the authorities granted to EPA by Congress.

23.Approximately 200 miles of the Hudson River are classified by the EPA as one of the largest Superfund sites in the country when 1.3 million pounds of PCBs were discharged by two General Electric plants into the Hudson River over a 30-year period. The EPA has required targeted dredging between 2009 and 2015. Last year, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation repeatedly advised the EPA of the State's concerns that EPA's remedy for the Hudson River left in place substantial levels of PCB contamination. The EPA is slated to release its five-year review of the project this spring. Independent and objective quantitative analyses are essential in order to determine whether the remedy is protective of human health and the environment. Will you agree to work with New York State to evaluate the sufficiency of the remedy selected in the EPA's Record of Decision?

I appreciated hearing about this Superfund site in our meeting and your staff followed up with us concerning the consent decree in this situation. If confirmed, I intend for EPA to work collaboratively with New York State to assess the sufficiency of the remedy. I understand that EPA intends to provide data and analysis related to a review of the remedy to the site related to all stakeholders, including New York, federal partners, and the environmental community. I also understand the State and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to present information to EPA through that process. I confirmed, I would work to ensure that EPA's decision will be informed by such information provided through such process.

24. With regard to the Hudson River, will you thoroughly quantify the trends based on all available fish, water, and sediment data and make reasonable and conservative assumptions regarding future trends?

I believe EPA actions should be based on sound science and taken in accordance with applicable statutory requirements, including consideration such as those you identify.

25. As of 2014, New York had the third largest number of Superfund sites among all states, with 87 sites. One in four Americans lives within three miles of a contaminated disposal site that poses serious risks to human health and the environment. In recent years, EPA has allocated approximately $250 million per year for Superfund cleanup. The agency estimates that much greater amounts – from $355 million to over $600 million per year – will be needed in the future. What changes should be made to the Superfund statute to help facilitate these important clean-up projects?

If confirmed, I would expect to prioritize the cleanup of contaminated land. Prior to suggesting any legislative proposals, I would expect to be briefed by staff and to receive the views of relevant stakeholders on ways to improve the operation of the Superfund program, including any changes to its statutory authority, if confirmed.

26. Do you support restoring the tax on petroleum products that funded the Superfund trust fund, but was discontinued in 1995?

This is a matter for Congress to decide.

27. What would you do, if confirmed, to facilitate and improve Superfund clean-ups in the absence of new legislation?

If confirmed, I would expect to prioritize the cleanup of contaminated land. I would also expect to be briefed by staff and to receive the views of relevant

stakeholders on ways to improve the operation of the Superfund program, absent new statutory authority, if confirmed. I also understand the Government Accountability Office and the EPA Inspector General also regularly review the operation and activities of the Superfund program, and I would expect to look to their recommendations for additional areas for improvement, if confirmed.

28. The EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to assess, clean up, and reuse contaminated properties. Cleaning up and reinvesting in brownfields protects human health and the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off agricultural and other working lands. Through fiscal year 2013, on average, $17.79 was leveraged for each EPA Brownfields dollar and 7.3 jobs leveraged per $100,000 of EPA brownfields funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements. Unfortunately, only about 1/3 of all applicants to the program are successful. Do you support expanding the resources for the Brownfields Program to adequately support these communities in need?

I am aware EPA's Brownfields program has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. If confirmed as Administrator, I expect cleanup of contaminated land to be among my priorities and to be briefed by staff about the Brownfields programs activities and resources before taking any action.

29. In 2005, New York State, Connecticut, and the EPA and Army Corps reached an agreement to eliminate or reduce the amount of dredged sediment dumped in the open waters of Long Island Sound. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of State have repeatedly urged the EPA and Army Corps not to move forward with the permanent designation of an open water dumping site in Eastern Long Island Sound, raising concerns that the sediment has not been properly tested and could negatively impact the economic and environmental state of Long Island Sound, which was designated in 1987 by Congress as an Estuary Of National Significance. Will you work to enforce NYS's right to protect Long Island Sound from additional open water dumping of dredged material?

The designation by EPA of an area as a site for dredged material disposal must follow the rigorous process set forth in the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act to ensure protection of the environment. As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, I support following the administrative processes set forth in law, including the National Environmental Policy Act, to ensure that EPA's statutory responsibilities are fully carried out.

30.Will you commit to assisting the states with determining upland alternatives to the open water disposal of dredged material?

Disposal of dredged material is not an EPA mission or responsibility. That lies with the Corps of Engineers.

31.Will you continue the Long Island Sound Study office and ensure it receives the necessary resources from EPA?

As I noted in my testimony before the Committee, I support collaborative efforts to achieve environmental protection. The Long Island Sound Study is a collaborative effort among EPA, New York, and Connecticut.
EPA's Long Island Sound Study office was authorized by Congress in 1990 under section 119 of the Clean Water Act. If confirmed, I will carry out all responsibilities given to EPA by Congress.

32.Will you support annual appropriations of at least $10 million for the EPA's Long Island Sound geographic program?

If confirmed, I will seek budgetary resources to carry out all responsibilities given to EPA by Congress. I note that the most recent appropriation for the Long Island Sound program was about $3.9 million and the most recent budget request was about $2.9 million.

33.How do you intend to handle existing EPA enforcement actions initiated prior to January 20, 2017?

I am unfamiliar with the specific details of the actions referenced in the question. I would expect to be briefed by staff, in consultation with the Department of Justice as appropriate, before taking any action.

34.Municipal landfills that are non-compliant with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) have created public health and environmental problems on the island of Puerto Rico, contributing to water, ground and air contamination. How will you address non-compliant landfills in Puerto Rico?

I am not familiar with the details of this specific issues but, if confirmed as Administrator, I would expect to be briefed by staff about EPA's ongoing involvement and role at these sites. If confirmed, I expect to make cleanup of contaminated land one of my priorities. I also believe in the importance of hearing the views of all stakeholders and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

35. I have been working with EPA Region 2 to address the significant environment and public health crisis in the Caño Martin Peña in San Juan, Puerto Rico. As we discussed during our meeting in my office, EPA must take aggressive action to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to clean up hazardous waste, which is threatening the lives of children and families, who do not have full representation in the Congress. Will you continue EPA's aggressive push to clean up the Caño?

As discussed, I am not familiar with the details of this specific matter but, if confirmed as Administrator, I would expect to be briefed by staff about EPA's ongoing involvement and role at this site. If confirmed, I expect to make cleanup of contaminated land one of my priorities.

36. If confirmed, will you visit San Juan and tour Caño Martin Peña during your first year as Administrator?

As we discussed in your office, I would be pleased to accompany you on this trip at a mutually convenient time if I am confirmed as Administrator.

37. What is the scientific basis for sea level rise, which we have experienced along the coast of New York State?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will work to ensure EPA regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data, including the ever-evolving understanding of the changes in our climate and sea level rise.

38. Do you agree with the National Climate Assessment that human-induced climate change has already increased the number and strength of extreme weather events?

I am aware of the broad range of views within the scientific community regarding the relationship between human activity on changes in the climate and any resulting impact on extreme weather events. If confirmed as Administrator, I will work to ensure EPA regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data.

39. Why did you eliminate the environmental protection unit of the Oklahoma Attorney General's office?

My office continues to employ attorneys vested with responsibilities related to environmental protection, including the attorney who served as the lead attorney on the previous attorney general's "environmental protection unit." That attorney's responsibilities remain unchanged (he has been promoted, in fact), and he pursues exactly the kind of cases that he pursued under the

previous attorney general. The only thing that changed was the internal organization of those vested with those responsibilities, because I concluded (consistent with the practices of every attorney general in the State's history but for my immediate predecessor) that it was not operationally efficient to have a separate unit for such work. Thus, I chose to house that work in the Office's Public Protection Unit and then later in the Solicitor General's Unit.

40.How may staff does the Oklahoma Attorney General's office have dedicated, full time, to enforcing federal environmental laws in Oklahoma? Do not include in that number staff working on lawsuits against the EPA.

The Office of the Attorney General's employs seven attorneys who responsibilities include environmental-related matters, with a primary focus on enforcing Oklahoma law, rather than the federal law that your question presumes. These duties substantially include representing the environmental agencies of the State of Oklahoma or providing counsel to those environmental agencies in actions they determine to pursue.

41.Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is listed as an unregulated contaminant under the Safe Drinking Water Act. PFOA was discovered in the municipal water supply and private wells in the Village of Hoosick Falls and Towns of Hoosick and Petersburgh, NY and in North Bennington, Pownal, Vermont. Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) was found in Newburgh New York.

In 2014, PFOA and PFOS were found in public drinking water wells in Horsham, Warminster, and Warrington, Pennsylvania. They were found by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. The amounts of PFOA and PFOS found in the public wells in the area were among the 10 highest samples anywhere in the country based on the provisional health advisory level set by EPA in 2009.

In 2009, EPA set a provisional health advisory level of .4 parts per billion. In May, 2016, EPA set a Lifetime Health Advisory level for PFOA at 70 parts per trillion. How will you work to ensure that drinking water sources are monitored for PFOA and PFOS, particularly in small communities under 10,000 people?

If confirmed, I will carry out the authorities and responsibilities given to EPA by Congress. Congress did not make monitoring eligible for Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund assistance because it is considered operation and maintenance that is local responsibility. However, Congress recently authorized a grant program to assist small and disadvantaged communities provide safe drinking water. Testing of unregulated

contaminants is eligible for assistance under this authority. If funding is provided by Congress, I will carry out that program.

42. How will EPA continue to evaluate the health effects of PFOA on all communities that were exposed, in particular vulnerable populations including infants and fetuses during pregnancy?

As I stated at my confirmation hearing, PFOA is a chemical substance that the Agency should address quickly and I will look to continue evaluating the health effects of PFOA through TSCA and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

43. Will you work collaboratively with other agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Defense, to ensure that the public is informed about the health effects of contamination?

As I stated at my confirmation hearing I believe collaboration between federal agencies to protect and better inform the public.

44. Will you work collaboratively with states and local governments to ensure that information on PFOA and PFOS are communicated in a transparent and timely manner to the public?

Cooperative federalism and collaboration between EPA and officials at the state and local level is something I feel very strongly about and if I am confirmed I will work collaboratively with state and local governments.

45. In the absence of federal drinking water standards, what role should EPA play in assisting communities whose drinking water supplies have become contaminated by PFCs or other emerging contaminants?

Congress recently authorized a grant program to assist small and disadvantaged communities provide safe drinking water. Testing of unregulated contaminants is eligible for assistance under this authority. If confirmed and if funding is provided by Congress, I will carry out that program.

46. The latest EPA survey of capital improvement needs indicates that public water systems need to invest $384.2 billion on infrastructure improvements over 20 years to ensure the provision of safe tap water. The needs estimate generally excludes costs associated with addressing unregulated contaminants or the costs of replacing lead service lines. What funding level do you view as effective for the

EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) capitalization grant program?

The federal government offers some financial assistance but the vast majority of the Investments in public water systems will be made by the public and private entities that own and operate those systems. The Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Loan Funds leverage federal investment at about 1.76 to 1. That is, a federal dollar leverages about 1.76 dollars in loan assistance. The new WIFIA program can leverage federal investment at a level of up to 60 to 1. I fully support the Drinking Water SRF and would not support any cuts to that program. However, if Congress provides additional funds I am excited by the opportunities the new WIFIA program presents.

47. How would you use the "precautionary principle" to bring to bear cutting edge science on emerging contaminants to ensure decisions are technically valid, while also not delaying regulatory decisions to wait for every potential detail to be addressed when health impacts may be occurring during the delay?

If confirmed agency decisions will be based on sound science and I will work to protect health and the environment as expeditiously as possible.

48.What is your view on EPA's role in overseeing response actions undertaken by DOD at U.S. military facilities, including where PFOA, PFOS, or other PFCs may have been released?

EPA's role is governed by the statutory and regulatory authorities, including section 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and the National Contingency Plan.

49. As you know, Congress passed a provision in law that exempts hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act. Do you think that hydraulic fracturing chemicals should be exempt or do you believe that this law has merit?

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution vests in Congress the authority to make our nation's laws and, if confirmed, as a member of the Executive Branch I will faithfully execute my duty to implement and enforce the laws written by Congress.

50.How will you address the disproportionate effect of environmental contamination on low-income communities of color?

If confirmed, I will expect to be briefed by staff about EPA's programs and statutory authorities in this area.

Senator Markey:

1. There is tremendous diversity across states in this country, and occasionally states have differences of opinion on how to approach a problem. One of the roles of the federal government is to be an arbiter among states.
- What is your philosophy on how interstate pollution conflicts should be handled?
- Should a state be able to pollute a river for which another state relies on for drinking water?
- What is the EPA's role in resolving interstate pollution conflicts?
- How would you determine when EPA should be involved in interstate pollution disputes?

As I testified in the hearing, I have pursued opportunities to address interstate environmental quality matters. One of the examples I have highlighted is the work that Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel and I took to address an enforceable water quality standard between Arkansas and Oklahoma. I have also discussed how Texas should be responsible when air quality issues affect Oklahoma and my experience with that. When negotiations among and between states breakdown EPA has a role to set environmental standards. However, that is should be a last course of action instead of the first. I believe environmental statutes are designed with states as a primary implementer. Environmental statutes envision that states have the delegated enforcement and primacy to implement and enforce environmental statutes. Only when that is not happening or when negotiations between and among states breakdown should EPA determine a dispute and only after attempting to assist states negotiate a local solution. I am fond of saying that we need national standards and neighborhood solutions. I think that should shape the work of the EPA.

2. During the hearing, you repeatedly underscored the need to make regulation "regular" for regulated entities.
- How do you reconcile that goal with the mission of EPA, which is "to protect human health and the environment"?
- If confirmed as EPA Administrator will your highest priorities be to protect human health and the environment?

As I testified, I believe in the rule of law and that process matters. I do not view these as being contrary to EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

3. Please list any deductible or nondeductible charitable donations you made in the last three years, including, for each contribution, the name of the recipient and the amount.

I have complied with the reporting obligations from the Office of Government Ethics and the EPW Committee.

4. As attorney general, you made Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and expected a fast response. Do you commit to respond to FOIAs as quickly as possible, if you are confirmed?

If confirmed, I will commit to tasking my staff with responding to FOIA requests in a timely manner.

5. During Mr. Trump's campaign, there were reports that even volunteers were required to sign non-disclosure agreements. After his election, President-elect Trump's team demanded lists of career officials who worked on climate science issues at the Energy Department and women's and gender issues at the State Department. It is against the law to retaliate against career officials for following lawful policy directives. It is also against the law to interfere with career employees communicating with Congress. I have included a summary of these laws below.

Any suggestion that the incoming administration is targeting career officials for retaliation simply because they worked on policies that the new President disagrees with threatens to create a chilling effect on employees who are simply trying to do their jobs.

5 U.S.C. § 7211, provides that: The right of employees, individually or collectively, to petition Congress or a Member of Congress. or to furnish information to either House of Congress, or to a committee or Member thereof, may not be interfered with or denied. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8), it is a violation of federal law to retaliate against whistleblowers. That law states: Any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority ... take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, a personnel action with respect to any employee or applicant for employment because of. ... (A) any disclosure of information by an employee or applicant which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences- (i) a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or (ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, any disclosure to the Special Counsel, or to the Inspector General of an agency or another employee designated by the head of the agency to receive such disclosures, of information which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences a violation of any law, rule, or regulation... " In addition, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1505, it is against federal law to interfere with a

Congressional inquiry: Whoever corruptly, or by threats or force, or by any threatening letter or communication influences, obstructs, or impedes or endeavors to influence, obstruct, or impede the due and proper administration of the law under which any pending proceeding is being had before any department or agency of the United States, or the due and proper exercise of the power of inquiry under which any inquiry or investigation is being had by either House, or any committee of either House or any joint committee of the Congress.

- If you are confirmed, will you commit to protect the rights of all career employees of the EPA, including their right to speak with Congress?
- Will you commit to communicate employees' whistleblower rights via email to all EPA employees within a week of being sworn in?

If confirmed, I commit to protecting the rights of all EPA employees and will follow the law.

6. The President-elect appears to be planning to ignore the advice he was given by bipartisan ethics experts to divest himself from his business interests. In the United States, he has hundreds of business interests, which include everything from vineyards, golf courses, hotels and casinos. Some of these interests could be impacted by EPA regulations or enforcement actions – for example, Donald Trump's New Jersey casino flunked air pollution tests, his hotel in Chicago has had a Clean Water Act violation and his New Jersey Golf Club violated the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- Do you commit to ensure that no employee of the EPA is pressured to take - or not take - any regulatory or enforcement action or decision because that action or decision would adversely affect business interests associated with the president-elect or his family?
- Considering that the president-elect has stated he will not release his tax returns anytime soon, how will you know exactly what all of the Trump family interests are without his tax returns?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will take care that all environmental laws enacted by Congress are faithfully executed without regard to identity of the owners of any regulated business that might be affected by such execution of the laws.

7. The following series of questions relate to Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes. As Attorney General of Oklahoma, you were responsible for complying with this law. For your ease of reference, Section 20i is provided below:

74 Okl. St. § 20i (2016)

§ 20i. Legal Representation of Agency or Official of Executive Branch--Contracts

A. An agency or official of the executive branch may obtain legal representation by one or more attorneys by means of one of the following:

1. Employing an attorney as such if otherwise authorized by law;

2. Contracting with the Office of the Attorney General; or

3. If the Attorney General is unable to represent the agency, or official due to a conflict of interest, or the Office of the Attorney General is unable or lacks the personnel or expertise to provide the specific representation required by such agency or official, contracting with a private attorney or attorneys pursuant to this section.

B. When entering into a contract for legal representation by one or more private attorneys, an agency or official of the executive branch shall select an attorney or attorneys from a list of attorneys maintained by the Attorney General. An agency may contract for legal representation with one or more attorneys who are not on the list only when there is no attorney on the list capable of providing the specific representation and only with the approval of the Attorney General. The list shall include any attorney who desires to furnish services to an agency or official of the executive branch and who has filed a schedule of fees for services with and on a form approved by the Attorney General. An agency or official may agree to deviate from the schedule of fees only with the approval of the Attorney General.

C. Before entering into a contract for legal representation by one or more private attorneys, an agency or official of the executive branch shall furnish a copy of the proposed contract to the Attorney General and, if not fully described in the contract, notify the Attorney General of the following:

1. The nature and scope of the representation including, but not limited to, a description of any pending or anticipated litigation or of the transaction requiring representation;

2. The reason or reasons for not obtaining the representation from an attorney employed by the agency or official, if an attorney is employed by the agency or official;

3. The reason or reasons for not obtaining the representation from the Attorney General by contract;

4. The anticipated cost of the representation including the following:

a. the basis for or method of calculation of the fee including, when applicable, the hourly rate for each attorney, paralegal, legal assistant, or other person who will perform services under the contract, and

b. the basis for and method of calculation of any expenses which will be reimbursed by the agency or official under the contract; and

5. An estimate of the anticipated duration of the contract.

D. Before entering into a contract for legal representation by one or more private attorneys where the agency has reason to believe that the case, transaction or matter will equal or exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars ($ 20,000.00) or after employment when it becomes apparent that the case, transaction or matter will equal or exceeds Twenty Thousand Dollars ($ 20,000.00), an agency or official of the executive branch shall obtain the approval of the Attorney General when the total cost, including fees and expenses, of all contracts relating to the same case, transaction, or matter will equal or exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars ($ 20,000.00). Any amendment, modification, or extension of a contract which, had it been a part of the original contract would have required approval by the Attorney General, shall also require approval by the Attorney General.

E. When an agency or official of the executive branch enters into a contract for professional legal services pursuant to this section, the agency shall also comply with the applicable provisions of *Section 85.41 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.*

F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System created pursuant to *Section 1355 et seq. of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes.*

G. The Attorney General shall, on or before February 1 of each year, make a written report on legal representation obtained pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection A of this section. The report shall include a brief description of each contract, the circumstances necessitating each contract, and the amount paid or to be paid under each contract. The report shall be filed with the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Appropriations and Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, and the Chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

•The Oklahoma Governor considers the Office of Attorney General a state agency, and includes the Attorney General on a comprehensive list of Oklahoma state agencies available at https://www.ok.gov/portal/agency.php. Do you agree that the Office of Attorney General is an agency under Oklahoma state law? If not, please explain.

Generally speaking, the Office of Attorney General is a state agency. Whether it is an "agency" for purposes of any particular statute requires an analysis of that statute.

•Subsection G of Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes requires the Attorney General to report annually on any contracts for legal representation that state agencies have entered into with private attorneys over the course of the prior year. For the avoidance of doubt, no exception is provided under Section 20i for contracts for legal representation entered into by the Attorney General with private attorneys. Do you agree that Subsection G of Title 74 Section 20i required

you, as Attorney General, to report contracts for legal representation that you entered into with private attorneys over the course of the prior year? If not, please explain.

No. The purpose of Section 20i, as demonstrated by its text, is to place the Office of Attorney General in the role of approving contracts for outside counsel that other agencies wish to enter into rather than utilizing the services of the Office of Attorney General. Subsection G requires a report be made of contracts entered into "pursuant to this section," as Subsection A(3) makes clear. Because the Office of Attorney General is not required to seek permission from itself "pursuant to" that section of law, it has no applicable contracts to report pursuant to Subsection G. The Office of Attorney General has, however, routinely disclosed contracts it has entered into with outside counsel, when requests for such contracts are made.

•The last fiscal year in which payments from the Office of Attorney General to private attorneys were recorded in the report submitted pursuant to Subsection G of Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes was FY 2011. No payments from the Office of Attorney General to private attorneys were recorded in the reports you filed for FY 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014, or FY 2015. As Oklahoma Attorney General, did you enter into any verbal or written contracts with private attorneys for legal representation (whether or not such contracts provided compensation to private attorneys) other than those listed in the reports you submitted for fiscal years 2011 through 2015? Please provide a brief description of each such contract you entered into, the date you entered into the contract, the circumstances necessitating the contract, and the amount—if any—paid under the contract (including details of any non-monetary benefits that you may have obtained, offered, been offered, or delivered in connection with the contract).

Yes. Such information can be requested from the Office of Attorney General through a request made pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act.

•Subsection B of Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes requires that—when entering into a contract for legal representation by one or more private attorneys—an agency or official of the executive branch must select an attorney or attorneys from a list maintained by the Attorney General. If there are no listed attorneys capable of providing the specific representation, then the agency must obtain the approval of the Attorney General in order to enter into the contract.

○Please describe your process, as Attorney General, for evaluating a request submitted by a state agency to enter into a contract for legal representation by a private attorney not on the approved list. Please provide any documents detailing this process (which you or your staff relied on in making such evaluations) or indicate if this process was undocumented.

- Please provide any documents submitted to you by state agencies requesting approval to enter into a contract for legal representation by a private attorney not on the approved list, as well as your written responses to such requests.
- Please provide any papers documenting decisions made by you or the Office of Attorney General to enter into contracts for legal representation by private attorneys that did not originate with requests submitted to you by state agencies.
- Do you agree that Subsection B of Title 74 Section 20i required you, as Attorney General, to enter into contracts for legal representation only with private attorneys included on the list referred to in that subsection unless there were no listed attorneys capable of providing the specific representation? If not, please explain.

Such information can be requested from the Office of Attorney General through a request made pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act. With regard to your question, because the Office of Attorney General maintains the referenced list, and is authorized to allow representation from attorneys not on the list, the Office of Attorney General plainly has the discretion to allow representation from attorneys not on the list.

Did you—at any time during your term as Attorney General—enter into a written or verbal contract for legal representation (whether compensated or pro bono) by one or more private attorneys not included on the list referenced in Subsection B of Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes? If so, for each such contract:

- Please provide a brief description of the contract, the circumstances necessitating the contract, and the amount—if any—paid under the contract (including details on any non-monetary benefits that you may have obtained, offered, been offered, or delivered in connection with the contract).
- Please indicate if you entered into the contract with a private attorney not on the approved list because there were no attorneys on the approved list capable of providing the specific representation or for another reason. Please describe the process you followed in reaching a decision to enter into a contract with a private attorney not on the approved list. Please list the attorneys on the approved list that you considered hiring (and deemed incapable of providing the specific representation) before deciding to enter into a contract with a private attorney not on the approved list. For each attorney on the approved list that you considered and rejected, please describe the deficiencies in their capabilities that led you to reject them in favor of a private attorney not on the approved list.

Such information can be requested from the Office of Attorney General through a request made pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act.

•As of January 18, 2017, neither David Rivkin, Jr. (nor any other attorney employed by Baker Hostetler) appeared on the "Approved Attorney List | 20i" accessible on your website at https://www.oag.ok.gov/litigation/1917atty.nsf/wfindatty.html?OpenView.

○Did David Rivkin Jr. represent the State of Oklahoma in its Clean Power Plan case against EPA?

○To the best of your knowledge, did David Rivkin Jr. or Baker Hostetler receive any compensation or funds from any third party in conjunction with this or any other litigation in which it represented the State of Oklahoma on your behalf? If so, please provide the names of any such third parties.

○Did you enter into a written or verbal contract for legal representation (whether compensated or pro bono) with David Rivkin, Jr. of the Washington, D.C.-based law firm Baker Hostetler? If so, please provide:
▪a brief description of the contract;
▪the date you entered into the contract;
▪the circumstances necessitating the contract;
▪the deficiencies in the capabilities of attorneys on your approved list that led you to reject them in favor of David Rivkin Jr.—an attorney not on your approved list; and
▪the amount—if any—paid under the contract (including details on any non-monetary benefits that you may have obtained, offered, been offered, or delivered in connection with the contract).
○Please list any contributions made by David Rivkin Jr. or any employee of Baker Hostetler to you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising, along with the dates of such contributions.

Yes. No. Yes. Information relating to the contract can be requested from the Office of Attorney General through a request made pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act. A full list of contributors to my campaigns for the state senate and attorney general may be found at the Oklahoma Ethics Commission's websites. For state campaign committees from 2002-2014, please use this site: https://www.ok.gov/ethics/public/candidate.php. For 2015 to the present, the Commission uses this site: http://guardian.ok.gov/PublicSite/SearchPages/Search.aspx?SearchTypeCodeHook=1F26BA5E-71EA-48E4-8D50-C1013E9FE0A7. Attached is a letter from the Oklahoma Ethics Commission regarding materials prior to 2002.

•During your term as Attorney General, did you ever enter into an arrangement whereby a private attorney or attorneys represented the State of Oklahoma on your behalf on a pro bono basis while being compensated by a third party? If so, please list the legal matters in which you entered into such arrangements, and, for each matter, the third party or parties that compensated the private attorneys, the amounts paid, and any monetary or non-monetary benefits that you may have

obtained in connection with the arrangement. During your term as Attorney General, did you have a process in place for ensuring that any private attorneys that represented the State of Oklahoma on a pro bono basis did not receive compensation from a third party for the legal services they provided to the state? If so, please describe this process.

No. Our Office would not enter into any such agreement for representation if it believed that the attorney was not truly working pro bono, and the Office would seek assurances from the attorney that they were.

8. The Online Lenders Alliance is "a trade group for online payday and short-term lenders and the companies that steer customers to them," according to a recent Los Angeles Times article describing actions by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers from misleading advertising claims made by certain members of the payday lending industry.

•Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers? If so, please list the amounts and dates of such donations or solicitations.

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

•Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from any company making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers? If so, please list the amounts and dates of such donations or solicitations.

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

•Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from any principal, senior executive, officer, or director of a company making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans? If so, please list the amounts and dates of such donations or solicitations.

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

•Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from any member of the Board of Directors of the Online Lenders Alliance? For your convenience, the members

of the Board of Directors of the Online Lenders Alliance, along with their business affiliations, are listed below. For each of these individuals, please provide the amounts and dates of their donations, or, if you unsuccessfully solicited donations from them, the dates of such solicitations.

- Kim Anderson, Strategic Link Consulting
- Samantha Bentson, Cashland Online
- Kirk Chartier, Enova Financial
- Doug Clark, Axcess Financial
- Mark Curry, MacFarlane Group
- John Dalton, LeadFlash
- Steve Hotz, The Lead Group
- Clive Kinross, MoneyKey
- Glenn McKay, Selling Source, LLC.
- Bart Miller, Centrinex
- Greg Rable, FactorTrust, INC.
- Ken Rees, Elevate
- Walt Wojciechowski, MicroBilt

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

- On June 16, 2015, you, as Attorney General, sent a letter to Richard Cordray, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (hereinafter, "CFPB"), expressing concerns about certain rules the CFPB proposed to regulate payday, vehicle title, and installment lending.

  - Was the text of this letter partially or substantially drafted by the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers?
  - Did the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers participate in the drafting of this letter in any other way? If so, please explain.
  - Did you ask the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers review or provide comments on a draft of this letter before it was sent? If so, please provide any records related to your outreach.
  - Did the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term

loans to consumers review or provide comments on a draft of this letter before it was sent? If so, please provide any communications between you or your office and any such group regarding this letter.

As far as I am aware, no as to all.

9. The Consumer Federation of America is an association of non-profit consumer organizations devoted to advancing the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.

- Did you ask the Consumer Federation of America or any other interest or advocacy group representing Oklahoma's consumers review or provide comments on a draft of this letter before it was sent? If so, please provide any records related to your outreach.
- Did the Consumer Federation of America or any other interest or advocacy group representing Oklahoma's consumers review or provide comments on a draft of this letter before it was sent? If so, please provide any communications between you or your office and any such group regarding this letter.

As far as I am aware, no as to all.

10. As you may know, Oklahoma has one of the highest usage rates for payday loans in the country and allows payday lenders to charge consumers interest rates of up to 390 percent on annual basis for a 14-day term loan. In November 2016, the CFPB reported that consumers in Oklahoma submitted debt collection complaints at a rate of 36 percent (higher than the 27 percent national average). In addition, the CFPB found that average monthly complaints from Oklahomans increased 17 percent from August through October 2015 (higher than the national rate of 13 percent).

- Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from the Consumer Federation of America or any other interest or advocacy group representing Oklahoma's consumers? If so, please list the amounts and dates of such donations or solicitations.
- Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from any member of the Board of Directors of the Consumer Federation of America? If so, please provide the amounts and dates of their donations, or, if you unsuccessfully solicited donations from them, the dates of such solicitations.

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

11. You have pursued at least twenty legal actions against the EPA on clean water, clean air and climate change related regulations, including multiple lawsuits that are ongoing. You have additionally criticized the EPA and its scientists on a range of scientific facts and regulations that aim to protect public health.

- Please identify EPA regulations or standards that you do support in their current form.
- In many of your legal actions and activities as Oklahoma AG, you have endorsed positions or signed letters that were drafted by oil and gas industry paid lobbyists. Please identify areas in which your views differ significantly from those of the oil and gas industry?

When negotiations among and between states breakdown EPA has a role to set environmental standards. However, that should be a last course of action instead of the first. I believe environmental statutes are designed with states as a primary implementer. Environmental statutes envision that states have the delegated enforcement and primacy to implement and enforce environmental statutes. Only when that is not happening or when negotiations between and among states breakdown should EPA determine a dispute and only after attempting to assist states negotiate a local solution. I am fond of saying that we need national standards and neighborhood solutions. I think that should shape the work of the EPA. As I also testified at the hearing, when it was appropriate to pursue legal actions or settlement negotiations specifically with the oil and natural gas industry I have done so. When considering new regulations on oil and natural gas production and practices, I have joined other co-regulators in Oklahoma advocating those changes.

12.Your Ethics Agreement states that for a one-year period, you "***will*** seek authorization to participate personally and substantially in particular matters involving specific parties in which I know the State of Oklahoma is a party or represents a party."

- Why does this language assume that you "will" seek authorizations for all such instances?

- Why is your recusal limited to a one-year period, when in some cases the "particular matters" will not be resolved within that timeframe?

- Will you commit to recusing yourself from participating in all such particular matters, without requesting or receiving a waiver, until the matter is fully resolved? If not, why not?

- These 'particular matters' are all litigation in which your Ethics Agreement contemplates you switching from plaintiff in your capacity as Attorney General of Oklahoma (in which you were a principal decision-maker on the part of those litigating against EPA), to defendant as EPA Administrator (in which you would be the principal decision-maker on the response to the lawsuit you filed). Why do

you not believe this creates an unresolvable conflict of interests that makes it impossible for you to properly, lawfully and ethically represent the interests of the EPA, while simultaneously upholding your professional duty to your former client, the State of Oklahoma?

My Ethics Agreement was drafted in close consultation with ethics experts at the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials, and reflects a diligent effort to ensure that I seek authorization before participating in any matter involving specific parties in which I know the State of Oklahoma is a party or represents a party for one year after my resignation as Oklahoma Attorney General. I believe you may be misreading the language in my Ethics Agreement regarding prior authorization. If, during the relevant time period, I would like to consider participating in a particular matter involving specific parties in which I know the State of Oklahoma is a party or represents a party, I will seek advance authorization to do so. With respect to my professional obligations as a member of the bar, I am not permitted to "switch sides" as counsel in any matter in which I participated as a lawyer. The standards that would apply to me as EPA Administrator are different, however, as I will not be representing the EPA as a lawyer if I am confirmed.

13. During the hearing, you refused to unequivocally recuse yourself from litigation that you brought against the EPA, repeatedly stating that you would follow the direction of agency ethics officials' guidance in this area on a case-by-case basis. Isn't it true that if you are confirmed, the agency ethics officials that you are referring to will report to you, and this reporting relationship could be perceived to have the potential to influence the guidance they provide you with? In light of this, will you commit to the modification of your Ethics Agreement, using your own discretion and authority to do so and prior to any vote on your confirmation, in order to provide more clarity about your intentions for recusal related to each matter involving specific parties in which the State of Oklahoma is a party? If not, why not?

My Ethics Agreement was drafted in close consultation with ethics experts at the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials, and reflects a diligent effort to ensure I comply with all applicable federal ethics rules. I will abide by the commitment I made in that letter. I am confident in the former staff of the EPA and have no reason to believe they will give me anything other than their best advice on ethics matters. Moreover, not all officials who may consider a request for authorization to participate in a matter will necessarily report to me. Before participating in matters involving specific parties in which I am concerned where there may be a question regarding my impartiality, I would expect, where they deem it appropriate, that EPA ethics officials may consult with ethics experts at OGE before making a recommendation.

14.I am attaching a January 17, 2017 letter from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) and a January 18, 2017 letter from The Campaign Legal Center (CLC), both sent to the EPA Designated Agency Ethics Official, for the record and for your review. The CREW letter references several factors related to your refusal to unequivocally recuse yourself from participating in any of these matters as EPA Administrator that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts "to question his [your] impartiality in these matters" and "to question the integrity of the agency's programs and operations." The CLC letter states that "the plan described in his [your] ethics agreement is insufficient to avoid actual or apparent conflicts of interest, and would cause members of the public to question his impartiality in the conduct of his [your] duties, contrary to his [your] obligation to "ensure that every citizen can have complete confidence in the integrity of the Federal Government.""

- The CREW letter states that ethics regulations demand your recusal from participating personally and substantially as Administrator in particular matters involving specific parties in which the State of Oklahoma is a party, even if the State of Oklahoma withdraws from the matter. Do you agree to make such a recusal for each such matter, even if the State of Oklahoma withdraws from the matter? If not, why not?

- The CREW letter states that "there would be serious and apparent conflicts leading to reasonable doubts about Mr. Pruitt's impartiality if he were to participate in these lawsuits as EPA Administrator *at any point* in their lifetime. It is therefore essential that Mr. Pruitt's recusals last through the full course of each matter." Do you agree to recuse yourself for the full course of each matter involving specific parties in which the State of Oklahoma is a party? If not, why not?

- The CREW letter states that any waiver request you might make from recusal from any of these matters "should be denied based on consideration of the relevant factors listed under" 5 C.F.R. 2635.502(d). Do you agree not to request a waiver from recusal from any such matter? If not, why don't you agree with the analysis of the factors listed in the regulations as they apply to your past litigation history against the Agency that CREW described in the letter should result in a denial of the waiver request?

As discussed above, my Ethics Agreement was drafted in close consultation with ethics experts at the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials, and reflects a diligent effort to ensure I comply with all applicable federal ethics rules. If confirmed, I will ask relevant federal ethics officials to fully review the issues raised in the CREW letter and, if appropriate, take them into account in determining the proper legal course of action in particular instances.

15. Some of the legal cases that you brought against the agency remain open, and there may be legal decisions that require EPA regulatory action as they are resolved; for example, a court could uphold the EPA regulation and require it to be enforced, or a court could direct such a regulation's revision. Since such regulatory actions would be a direct consequence of the litigation, any conflict of interests associated with your participating in the legal matter should extend to any EPA regulatory or enforcement action taken as a result of court action on the litigation. Do you agree to recuse yourself without waiver and for the entirety of your tenure at the EPA from all such regulatory or enforcement actions that are taken as a result of court action on a specific legal matter from which you were recused? If not, why not?

As EPA Administrator I will recuse from participation in litigation in matters in which I represented the State of Oklahoma, unless I receive informed consent from the State of Oklahoma and the permission of relevant federal ethics officials. It is my understanding that recusal obligations do not extend to regulatory rulemaking of general applicability, which does not create a conflict under applicable rules.

16. If you are confirmed, you will also have the ability to accomplish through *regulation* as EPA Administrator what you have been seeking to accomplish through *litigation* as Attorney General. For example, instead of waiting for a court to decide whether to grant your lawsuit's request to overturn EPA's smog standard, you could start to write a regulation to do just that on your very first day on the job. Will you commit to recuse yourself from working on the revision or elimination of any *regulation* regarding issues on which you have sued the EPA? If not, why not?

It is my understanding under federal ethics rules that regulatory rulemaking of general applicability does not create a conflict.

17. I am also attaching, for the record and for your review, the Ethics Agreement signed by Carol Browner, former EPA Administrator during the Clinton Administration. In her Ethics Agreement, she agreed to recuse herself from participating "personally and substantially in any EPA matter which involves the State of Florida as a specific party and in which I was personally and substantially involved as Secretary, Department of Environmental Regulations, State of Florida". I note that this agreement was not limited to one year in duration and not subject to waivers. I am also attaching, for the record and for your review, the Obama Administration Ethics Pledge that each nominee agreed to uphold, which states, in part, "I will not for a period of 2 years from the date of my appointment participate in any particular matter involving specific parties that is directly and substantially related to my former employer or former clients, including regulations and contracts." If the response to any part of questions 2, 3 or 4 is no, please

also explain why in light of the stronger Ethics Agreements and pledges made by past EPA Administrators?

I am not familiar with the facts and circumstances surrounding Ms. Browner's Ethics Agreement. In my Ethics Agreement, which was drafted in close consultation with ethics experts at the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials, I agreed to abide by federal regulations that require my recusal from particular matters involving specific parties in which the State of Oklahoma is a party for a period of one year after my resignation as Attorney General, unless I receive a waiver. I will abide by the commitment in that letter, in addition to any other obligations imposed by the Trump Administration as well as my obligations as a member of the bar.

18. In addition to your participation in specific litigation and regulatory matters that raise conflicts of interests, there may be pending enforcement matters at EPA in which donors to you or your political action committees are the subjects. For example, records indicate that Tyson Foods has been the subject of an EPA Clean Air Act enforcement action[3] and reportedly "faces an ongoing criminal investigation by the EPA for its release of toxic pollutants into waterways".[4] Do you commit to recusing yourself from participation in any enforcement matter in which the subject is an entity that has previously made a donation to you or any of your political action committees? If not, why not?

I will consult with relevant federal ethics officials to determine whether to participate in a particular matter.

19. *Miss. Comm'n on Envtl. Quality v. EPA*, 790 F.3d 138 (D.C. Cir. 2015) stated that "Decisionmakers violate the Due Process Clause and must be disqualified . . . when they act with an 'unalterably closed mind.'" One of your filings stated that the agency's record "does not support EPA's findings that mercury, non-mercury HAP metals, and acid gas HAPs pose public health hazards." Do you have an "unalterably closed mind" on the question of whether mercury and acid gas HAPs pose public health hazards? If not, please explain your current view on this question.

As I stated in my testimony to the committee, all legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in my capacity as an advocate. If confirmed as Administrator, I will consider all

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[3] https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/tyson-foods-inc

[4] http://www.meatpoultry.com/articles/news_home/Business/2016/08/Tyson_investors_call_for_envir.aspx?ID=%7B4E28BCD7-045D-489C-8A41-48A6DDDBE99F%7D&cck=1

matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

20. Section 301(a) of the Clean Air Act prohibits the Administrator from delegating authority over many regulatory proceedings. To the extent that you are recused from participating in such decisions, who could lawfully make them?

If I am recused from participating in a matter, the Federal Vacancies Reform Act and other federal law provide a mechanism for another EPA official to perform such functions in an acting capacity. Under current policy, the EPA Deputy Administrator would typically serve this function.

21.Each case in which you litigated on behalf of your former client requested that the court compel EPA to take a specific action; for example, one pending suit asks a court to compel EPA to maintain the ozone standard at 75 ppb instead of lowering it to 70 ppb. A court may direct EPA to take specific actions as these cases are resolved, which will require changes to EPA regulations. Moreover, as EPA Administrator, you could simply direct the Agency to amend its regulations to do the very thing your lawsuit asked a court to do in the first place. This also creates an unresolvable conflict of interests.

- Will you recuse yourself, without waiver and for the entirety of your tenure as EPA Administrator, from any agency proceedings that a) directly result from the resolution of or b) are related to the "particular matters" that your Ethics Agreement agrees you should be recused from? If not, why not, and why do you not believe that such agency proceedings would be covered by your recusal under the applicable Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch?

As EPA Administrator I will recuse from participation in litigation in matters in which I represented the State of Oklahoma, unless I receive informed consent from the State of Oklahoma and the permission of relevant federal ethics officials. I understand that this does not extend to regulatory rulemaking of general applicability, which would not create a conflict under applicable rules.

22. Our oceans are essential for life, and much of what happens on land ultimately ends up in our oceans. There are many ways in which our actions on land can both positively and negatively affect marine life and the marine environment. Under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), the EPA ensures that harmful substances are not dumped into the

marine environment. Additionally, reducing ocean pollution is a global goal in which the U.S. is an active participant.

- In your opinion, what role does the EPA have in protecting our oceans and the marine life within?
- How specifically will the EPA, under your administration, ensure that harmful manmade substances do not end up in our oceans?
- How will the EPA continue to ensure the U.S. is a leader in reducing ocean pollution, and assisting other countries in reducing pollution that makes it into our oceans?

If confirmed, I will carry out the authorities and responsibilities given to EPA by Congress. These include responsibilities under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

23.The greenhouse gas effect traps outgoing longwave radiation causing a radiative imbalance of Earth, ultimately leading to the warming of the globe. The fundamental physics of climate change are well settled.

- Are you aware of the theory of radiative balance of the Earth? Can you briefly describe it?
- Do you understand Planck's law and the difference between shortwave vs. longwave radiation, and how that relates to Earth's energy balance?
- Do you agree that disturbances to this equilibrium can warm or cool the Earth?
- Are you aware of the atmospheric circulation and oceanic currents that transport heat from the Equator to the poles?
- Due to the complexity of the climate system, there are lag times between changes in certain conditions, such as the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and other observable changes, such as the temperature of the deep ocean. If an action by the United States or world today, could positively or negative benefit the future, say 50 to 100 years down the road, is that an important consideration?
- Are you aware that there is less ice on land in such places as Antarctica and Greenland than in previous years since the Industrial Revolution? What do you believe is causing this decrease in mass of ice on land?
- To where do you believe the water from ice melt on land goes, and do you believe that could cause global sea levels to rise?
- Do you disagree that additional greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, will cause a smaller magnitude outgoing longwave radiation to escape to space? Please explain.
- Do you disagree that the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil or natural gas, cause carbon dioxide to be released into the atmosphere? Please explain.
- Do you disagree that if fossil fuels were not extracted and burned, less carbon dioxide would be released into the atmosphere? Please explain.
- Therefore, is it possible, if not probable, that humans releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere could cause more heat to be trapped by the atmosphere? Please explain.

•Do you understand that the concept address is the previous question is the basis of human-caused climate change? Please explain.
•If not human burning of fossil fuels, how do you explain the observed increase in carbon dioxide in atmosphere?
•What is a safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere? Please provide this number in parts per million. Please explain.
•If states want to individually take measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions will you allow them to do so? If yes, how will you support them? If not, why does the EPA have the authority to stop a state from implementing measures to curb greenhouse gases?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data, including the ever-evolving understanding of the impact increasing greenhouse gases have on our changing climate. I will also adhere to the applicable statutory authorities to fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment consistent with the process and rule of law established by congress. I also believe the Administrator has an important role when it comes to the regulation of carbon dioxide, which I will fulfill consistent with *Massachusetts v. EPA* and the agency's Endangerment Finding on Greenhouse Gases respective of the applicable statutory framework established by Congress. I believe the most effective path towards achieving these objectives is through close partnership with the states granting them regulatory leeway as ascribed by the rule of law.

24. If states want to individually take measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions will you allow them to do so? If yes, how will you support them? If not, why does the EPA have the authority to stop a state from implementing measures to curb greenhouse gases?

Yes, states are free to pursue regulatory measures to address greenhouse gas emissions under state legal authority.

25.A recently released report by *Solar Power Rocks* gave Oklahoma a grade of "F" and found that the "solar industry has been stymied at every turn."
•The length of return for a 5-kilowatt solar array installation is 16 years in Oklahoma, compared to the just 4 years in Massachusetts. Why do you believe that is the case?
•In 2014, the Oklahoma legislature passed legislation putting a surcharge on rooftop solar. Do you support this? Why or why not?

I am not familiar with "lengths of return" or the potential differences in such lengths of return between states, and thus have no opinion as to the cause

of any such differences. I am not familiar with the legislation you reference, and have formulated no opinion with regard to the wisdom of it as a matter of Oklahoma policy.

26. Last week, in his nomination hearing, Rex Tillerson dismissed the importance of America being energy independent. If you are confirmed as EPA Administrator, you will oversee tailpipe standards for cars and SUVs and the renewable fuel standard, two important polices that support energy independence by reducing oil consumption in America. In your view, should achieving energy independence be a priority for America?

As Congress indicated in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, domestic production of renewable fuel contributes to our nation's "greater energy independence and security." Our energy independence will best be achieved by an "all-of-the-above" strategy without the government picking winners and losers. Setting motor vehicle emissions standards is a complex task that requires careful balancing of several competing factors. Setting such standards also requires coordination with NHTSA, which continues to administer the CAFE program. I will consider the relevant factors carefully and will coordinate closely with NHTSA on any motor vehicle emissions standards that will be addressed during my tenure if I am confirmed as Administrator.

27.A cornerstone of science is impartiality and following the facts. This is what has allowed the United States to be a world leader in science.

- Do you commit to allowing EPA scientists to do their jobs and not interfere with their science?
- How will you ensure that scientists, such as those employed by EPA, are allowed to continue their work unimpeded by potential challenges due to their topic of research?
- Do you agree that only scientists and technical experts, not impeded by political influence, should edit scientific work? If not, why?
- In your opinion, what is the role that a public affairs office has in editing any potential publically available statement or information?
- Do you pledge that your all of your work as EPA Administrator will be guided by the best available science?
- Do you commit to maintaining EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy regardless of research area?

If confirmed, it will be a privilege to work with EPA scientists and the thousands of other public servants at EPA. I have no first-hand knowledge of the role of the public affairs office as referenced in the question and, if confirmed, I expect to learn more about the office. Indeed, I fully believe, as former EPA administrators have stated, that sound, objective science must

serve as "the backbone" of EPA actions. I have no first-hand knowledge of the specific scientific integrity policy referenced in the question and, if confirmed, I commit to thoroughly reviewing the policy and to follow applicable laws and federal guidance regarding scientific integrity, information quality, and transparency.

28.It has been reported by *Wired* that President-elect Trump plans to undo President Obama's June 2013 Climate Action Plan, and remove materials from EPA websites. While we understand revising policies from administration to administration, the reports of removing environmental data from EPA websites is troubling. Will you commit to keeping environmental records, data, and records provided as part of previous rulemakings publically available on the EPA's website?

- Will you commit to ensuring that any current publically available dataset remains available and easy to access? If not, please explain.
- Will you ensure that all data interpretation tools available on the EPA website remain publically available and easy to access? If not, please explain.

I have not been briefed on any changes to the EPA website following the transfer of power from the Obama Administration to the Trump Administration. That being said, I commit to reviewing the materials that are included on the EPA site if I am confirmed.

*29.*I have heard that EPA's Fiscal Year 2018 budget request may include a 17% budget cut. . I am troubled by this reported planned cut to EPA budget and urge you to reconsider this drastic move. Will you maintain robust funding for scientific research at EPA, and to ensure that environmental data continues to be collected?

I have no first-hand knowledge of EPA's development of its FY 2018 budget request. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the limited resources appropriated to EPA by Congress are managed wisely in pursuit of that important mission and in accordance with all applicable legal authorities.

30.Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) now provides more than half of the United States oil output. In 2000, fracking provided less than 2% of America oil. This has dramatically changed the energy landscape of the United States.

- Do you believe that hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) is the cause of the increased frequency and strength of earthquakes in Oklahoma? Please explain.
- As Attorney General have you taken any actions related to earthquakes caused by fracking?
- In May 2016, you testified that the decline in the coal industry was due to the price drop of natural gas and not EPA regulation. Do you stand by this statement? If not, why have your views changed?

•Do you believe that fracking can contaminate drinking water supplies? Please explain.

Scientists from the state level up to the National Research Council have found that the act of hydraulic fracturing itself poses very little risk of creating seismic events. Seismicity concerns related to the oil and natural gas industries are more commonly tied to the underground injection of wastewater which is regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. As I stated in my testimony, in Oklahoma the Corporation Commission has jurisdiction over this matter and I have been in contact with that agency that has taken very meaningful steps to address seismic concerns. I believe that there is not one single factor that has precipitated the decline in the coal industry alone. Finally, I agree with EPA's Dr. Thomas Burke who, following the release of EPA's final hydraulic fracturing water study, reiterated that the Agency only found a small number of confirmed cases of contamination. With well over one million wells that have been hydraulically fractured in the United States the evidence found by EPA suggests a very low likelihood of drinking water contamination from hydraulic fracturing or its associated activates.

31.This past December, the EPA released a report entitled, "Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas: Impacts from the Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle on Drinking Water Resources in the United States." The EPA found scientific evidence that fracking activities can affect drinking water supplies.
•Have you read this report?
•What steps will you take as Administrator to reduce the possibility of drinking water contamination due to hydraulic fracturing activities?
•Of those chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing activities, the EPA found that nearly 200 might pose a public health risk. Will you commit to continuing to study these identified chemicals and the potential health risks, as well as identify other potential harmful chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing activities?

I am familiar with the report and if confirmed as EPA Administrator I will faithfully execute my legal duties to administer laws as authorized by Congress including the Safe Drinking Water Act. Understanding and studying risks to local communities is something central to the role as Administrator and I will continue to study potential risk using the Agencies many tools.

32.Do you agree the Clean Air Act health benefits significantly outweigh costs? For example, a peer-reviewed study found that in 2010 alone the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, which reduced fine particulate pollution and ozone, avoided more than 160,000 premature deaths, 130,000 heart attacks, prevented 13 million missed workdays, and avoided 3.2 million missed school days by children.

Based on the limited information provided, it is unclear as to the specific study referenced. However, as I indicated in my testimony, I am incredibly proud of the progress the U.S. has made to provide public health protections and improve our environmental stewardship while also growing our economy. If confirmed, I commit to continue this progress and protect the American people through commonsense and lawful regulations.

33.According to the Consumer Reports National Research Center survey completed in June 2016, 84 percent of Americans feel that automakers should continue to improve fuel economy for all vehicle types. About three-quarters of survey respondents specifically indicated that the U.S. government should require vehicle manufacturers to improve the fuel economy of their vehicles over time. As you may know, when the government stopped increasing fuel economy standards for two decades in the mid-1980s, vehicle fuel economy stopped improving. Now that we are once again making progress, what will you do to make sure that vehicle fuel economy continues to improve as Americans expect?

While the EPA regulates emissions under the Clean Air Act, it is true that Congress vested authority to regulate fuel economy through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards" framework set forth originally in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. Congress vested responsibility for the CAFE program in the Department of Transportation, not the EPA; accordingly, I take no position on Congress's policy decision on this subject, or on the Department of Transportation's administration of the CAFE program. If confirmed as EPA Administration, I would administer the Clean Air Act in accordance with the terms of the Act, including Congress's statutory policy objectives, and would do so on the basis of the factual record in any given proceeding.

34.After conducting its Midterm Evaluation of fuel economy standards for model years 2022 through 2025, the EPA determined that automakers were well-positioned to meet the standards at lower costs than previously estimated. In fact, the EPA chose to retain the current standards to provide regulatory certainty for the auto industry despite a technical record suggesting that standards could be made more stringent.

Among the technologies that the EPA considered in reaching its determination that fuel economy standards could be readily achieved were so-called “off-cycle technologies.” Off-cycle technologies are innovations such as more efficient air conditioning through enhanced window glass that reduces solar load, stop-start systems, solar panels, active aerodynamics, and adaptive cruise control. By reducing the energy demands placed on the engine, these technologies serve to improve fuel economy and reduce tailpipe emissions of carbon pollution. Vehicle manufacturers may claim “off-cycle credits” for these carbon pollution-reducing technologies which may have benefits not adequately captured as part the

standard fuel economy testing procedures.

Americans in Massachusetts, Ohio, Tennessee, North Carolina, Michigan, Indiana and across the country have good-paying jobs that depend on vehicle manufacturers continuing to demand these innovative technologies.

In your hearing, you explained how important it is for the EPA to consider jobs and economic impacts as part of its analysis and decision-making. If confirmed, would you support the "off-cycle credit" mechanism included that the EPA included in its fuel economy standards—a mechanism that drives American innovation and job growth? If not, please explain your position.

If confirmed, my job as Administrator would be to administer the statutes that Congress has enacted, including the statutory objectives that Congress incorporates into those statutes. If Congress chooses to enact legislation to promote certain technologies, such as "off-cycle" vehicle technologies, then those statutory priorities would fall within the EPA Administrator's responsibility. If confirmed, I would look forward to working with Congress on any such statutory proposals that it legislates.

35. Is the carbon dioxide that comes out of car tailpipes physically or chemically different from the carbon dioxide that comes out of power plant smokestacks? If so, how?

As a matter of law, Congress elected to enact different statutory frameworks for regulating emissions from stationary sources and mobile sources: Title I of the Clean Air Act for the former, Title II for the latter. As the Supreme Court recognized in Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA (2013), these two frameworks have significant differences.

36. Would the impact on the climate system of carbon dioxide from power plants be any different from that of carbon dioxide from tailpipe emissions? If so, in what way?

As noted above, Congress elected to enact different statutory frameworks for regulating emissions from stationary sources and mobile sources: Title I of the Clean Air Act for the former, Title II for the latter. As the Supreme Court recognized in Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA (2013), these two frameworks have significant differences.

37. Do you agree that the power sector and the transportation sectors each contribute at least a quarter of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions?

According to the EPA (https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions), in 2014 electricity generation accounted for 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions (quantified in terms of metric tons of CO2 equivalent), and transportation accounted for 26%.

38.Congress established protections for the air in national parks and wilderness areas in the Clean Air Act amendments of 1977. The quality of the air in New England parks like Cape Cod national seashore and Acadia national park suffers from pollution blown in from elsewhere. Last summer you joined other Attorneys General in comments objecting to the EPA's amendments to the Regional Haze Rule. Given your previous objection, if confirmed as EPA administrator, what will you do to fulfill the 40-year directive from Congress to protect and restore the air quality of national parks like Cape Cod and Acadia even if it requires states from outside the region to reduce their air pollution?

As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, I agree that the Clean Air Act gives EPA an important role in addressing interstate pollution issues, among many other things. All legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in my capacity as an advocate. If confirmed, I will consider all matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

39.The 1977 Clean Air Act amendments also provide a role for federal land managers in protecting the air quality of national parks and wilderness areas. If confirmed as EPA Administrator, how will you make sure that EPA honors the obligations federal land managers have under the Clean Air Act and that their expertise is incorporated into the policies necessary to achieve the goal of natural air quality?

I am confirmed, I will exercise my authority consistent with Congress's intent in enacting the Act. This includes acting transparently in a manner that takes into account the views of the federal land managers where the Act calls for their views, such as in assessing visibility impacts from new major sources in the preconstruction permitting process.

40.When Congress passed the original Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) in 2005, "inadequate domestic supply" and "severe harm" to the economy were the only conditions under which the general waiver authority allowing the EPA to waive the RFS could be invoked. Despite this clear direction from Congress, in its 2014-2015-2016 final Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO), EPA used "available refueling infrastructure" as a condition to waive the standard even though Congress expressly rejected it. Do you believe that EPA's use of this reason for

granting a waiver in the 2014-2015-2016 RVO is consistent with Congressional intent and the law?

As I stated at my hearing, I believe the EPA Administrator should use its waiver authority judiciously and not to undermine or question the commitments made by Congress when enacting the RFS.

41.The Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) is one of our country's most important tools to reduce carbon pollution from the transportation sector. The 2007 amendments to the RFS included increasing volumes of cellulosic and advanced biofuels. If confirmed, will you increase the blending targets for cellulosic and advanced biofuels, including biodiesel, given Congressional intent? What role can EPA play to facilitate the expansion of cellulosic and advanced biofuels, including biodiesel?

Section 211(0) of the Clean Air Act contains enumerated tables of applicable target volumes of renewable fuel, specifically cellulosic and advanced, for calendar years 2006 through 2022. As I indicated in my nomination hearing, it is not the job of the Administrator of the EPA to do anything other than administer the program according to the intent of Congress. If confirmed, I will work to administer this program in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

42.In response to an Inspector General report, the EPA announced in August that it would update the estimates of carbon pollution reduction from renewable fuels. If confirmed as Administrator, will you commit to completing this update and using the best available commercial and scientific information, including a recent USDA report on the emissions profile of renewable fuels?

I have not had an opportunity to review the referenced report, but, if confirmed, I will review it.

43.In a response to a Renewable Fuels Standard question, you stated during the hearing that "we have less consumption today." Please provide the annual U.S. consumption of gasoline since 2005 as well as forecasts for 2017 and 2018. Is U.S. consumption of gasoline declining or increasing?

In the course of my nomination hearing, I referenced market conditions that have changed since 2005, when the initial RFS program was enacted. When the program was updated in 2007, Congress could not predict how the

market conditions would further change, from decreased consumption to more fuel-efficient vehicles, and therefore provided the Administrator with the ability to waive certain provisions contained in the Act. As I stated at my hearing, I do not believe the EPA Administrator should use this waiver authority to undermine the commitments made by Congress when enacting the RFS.

44.EPA set out to reduce mercury, arsenic, and other toxic chemicals from coal and oil-fired power plans through a rule that you sued to block. Power plants account for half of the mercury emissions in the United States and EPA's Mercury and Air Toxins Standards rule could save up to 11,000 lives and save $90 billion on health costs each and every year across the United States.

•The World Health Organization states that mercury has a toxic effect on humans, and in particular poses a significant threat to child development. Do you agree that mercury is a toxic substance and exposure to it should be limited? Please explain.

•Most people are exposed to mercury from eating fish and shellfish. Do you agree that we should take appropriate steps that reduce the amount of mercury in fish and shellfish? Please explain.

As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, mercury is appropriately regulated as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will regulate under Section 112 in a manner that is consistent with Congress's intent in enacting that provision. I will also faithfully administer other federal statutes that regulate mercury to the extent that they are under my jurisdiction, including the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act of 1996, the Clean Water Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

45.Donald Trump recently bemoaned "you're not allowed to use hair spray anymore because it affects the ozone." Hairspray is still available for sale, just without the chemical responsible for the ozone hole.

The ozone hole was first discovered in the mid-1980s. The world quickly came together to address the ozone hole through the Montreal Protocol. Actions were taken prior to confirmation of the hypothesis that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) due to human emissions, that chemical Donald Trump alluded to in his statement, to address the ozone hole. The treaties to address the ozone hole were the first universally ratified treaties in the history of the United Nations.
•Do you agree with the overwhelming scientific evidence that CFCs are the cause of the historic depletion of the ozone layer? If not, why not?

•Do you consider the "Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" to be a success? If not, why not?
•Considering the success of the world coming together to solve an environmental problem in that instance, do you believe that such a framework could be used as an example to solve other global environmental problems? If not, why not?

I consider the Montreal Protocol to be a successful example of the world coming together to solve an important environmental problem and that the Montreal Protocol could serve as an example to the President as he exercises his foreign affairs powers and to the Senate as it considers ratification of any treaty that may come before it.

46.Mr. Pruitt, you have repeatedly sued EPA to overturn regulations that seek to protect Americans from the effects of soot, ozone, greenhouse gases, mercury, arsenic and other air pollutants. These toxic air pollutants are often blown east from large industrial and energy sources in the Midwest, particularly impacting air quality and public health from Maine and Massachusetts to the Smoky Mountains.

•EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, which provides independent scientific advice to EPA on its air pollution standards, said that ozone causes a "decrease in lung function, increase in respiratory symptoms, and increase in airway inflammation." Do you agree with this scientific conclusion? Please explain.

•EPA projected that its final Cross State Air Pollution Rule would avoid up to 34,000 premature deaths, 15,000 non-fatal heart attacks and 400,000 asthma attacks – every year. Do you agree with this conclusion? Please explain.

•The EPA concluded that the health effects associated with fine soot particles include premature death, more ER visits and increased frequency of chronic respiratory disease. Do you agree with this conclusion? Please explain.

As I stated in my testimony to the committee, all legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in my capacity as an advocate. If confirmed as Administrator, I will consider all matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

47.Lead is not just a problem in Flint, Michigan, but all over the United States including Oklahoma. In your capacity as Attorney General of Oklahoma, what did you and your office do to prevent childhood lead exposure?

While I am concerned about children's health, matters of the sort you reference would be handled by Oklahoma's environmental regulators at the

Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

48. During your confirmation hearing before the Environment and Public Works Committee, in response to a question, you indicated that you did not know if there is a safe level of lead. Scientific experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization, among other leading scientific bodies have repeatedly warned of the dangers of lead, specifically to children, concluding that there is no level of lead exposure that is safe.

- Do you agree that exposure to lead is dangerous and that no level of exposure should be considered safe?

- If confirmed, will you commit to making reducing childhood lead exposure a priority?
- What specific strategies will you implement to reduce lead exposure?
- Will you advocate for more funding for the programs that reduce lead exposure risk, especially in children?

I have not myself reviewed the scientific studies correlating blood lead levels to impacts in children. However, it is my understanding that neither EPA nor CDC have identified a "safe" level of exposure, but instead have adopted levels appropriate for action under their specific statutory authorities. If confirmed I will carry out EPA's authorities to reduce exposure to lead, including exposures by children.

49. The EPA is tasked with implemented the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and ensuring that the drinking water supply for many Americans is safe. Given the Flint, Michigan drinking water crisis, many Americans that took clean water for granted are now being faced with questions about a basic necessity.
- The Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, or WIIN Act, passed Congress was signed by the President, and became public law on December 12, 2016. Will you commit to, as expedient as practicable, implementing the changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act?
- The human-caused drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan has highlighted the widespread concern of lead in drinking water pipes across the nation. Additionally, nearly 4 million Americans may be unknowingly drinking unsafe water. Are you aware of how many public water systems in the United States have issues with lead in drinking water above safe levels?
- If a public official knowingly exposes their community to dangerous levels of contaminants, such as lead, should that official be held accountable for such actions? What do you think are acceptable punishments for such an action?
- If confirmed as EPA Administrator, what will you do to ensure that communicates across America have safe drinking water that is not contaminated with lead?

If confirmed I will fully implement the changes to the Safe Drinking Water regulatory requirements made by the WIIN Act, including the changes to the notification requirements relating to lead levels in drinking water. If funding is provided, I will also implement the assistance programs authorized in that Act. I also will fully implement the existing authorities under the SDWA, including, as appropriate, EPA's authority to take emergency action. If confirmed I will seek a briefing from EPA staff on the number of public water systems that are not in compliance with the SDWA Lead and Copper Rule. I am unaware of EPA authorities to punish individuals other than to seek the resignation of responsible EPA officials, such as the resignation of the former Regional Administrator of EPA Region 5 who resigned after her failure to act upon information regarding the lead levels in the Flint water system became public.

50.The updated Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires that EPA evaluate the risks to "potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations" and take action to protect these subpopulations from all identified risks. Do you commit to follow this statutory requirement?

Yes.

51.As Oklahoma Attorney General, you have consistently advocated for the rights of states in the area of environmental protections. Will you apply the preemption provisions in TSCA in a manner that is consistent with the statute and your pre-stated philosophy when it comes to state leadership on environmental protection matters?

As I stated in my letter to Senators Inhofe and Boxer from April 9, 2016, I believe the Lautenberg Act ensures states have an important voice at the table and I will apply the law as enacted by Congress.

52.The new law greatly increases transparency and provides EPA with an obligation to protect against unjustified claims of confidentiality by industry. Do you commit to uphold the bill's statutory requirements in this area?

As I stated in my letter to Senators Inhofe and Boxer from April 9, 2016, I believe public dissemination of information about chemicals is critical to ensure public health and safety is upheld. In my view the Lautenberg Act struck a common sense balance between protecting confidential business information and informing the public and I intend to apply the law as enacted by Congress.

53. Do you agree that transparency is important to meaningful public participation in EPA's work on chemicals under TSCA? Do you commit to increasing transparency by fully implementing the provisions in the new law to prevent unjustified claims of confidentiality by industry?

As I have previously stated I believe the Lautenberg Act struck an appropriate balance between protecting confidential business information and informing the public and I intend to apply the law as enacted by Congress.

54. One of the reasons Congress was able to agree on a major re-write of TSCA was because of the fundamental agreement we made to clarify the law to ensure that costs could not be considered when EPA decided whether a chemical was safe or what level of a chemical was safe. Costs could only be a factor when deciding what type of regulation to require to meet that safe standard. Do you continue to support this approach? Would you oppose any effort to change this reformed approach to regulation?

If confirmed I intend to faithfully execute all provisions of the Lautenberg Act as enacted by Congress.

55. Nearly three decades ago, President George H. W. Bush attempted unsuccessfully to ban asbestos. Asbestos is banned in 55 countries across the globe and the World Health Organization says, quote, "all forms of asbestos are carcinogenic to humans". More than 30 Americans die each day from diseases like asbestosis and cancer caused by asbestos. Yet, in his 1997 book, *The Art of the Comeback*, President-elect Trump stated, that asbestos is, quote, "100 percent safe, once applied" and that he, quote, "believe[s] that the movement against asbestos was led by the mob." Do you agree with Mr. Trump that asbestos is 100 percent safe once applied or that the movement against asbestos was led by the mob?

Asbestos has been identified by the EPA as a high-priority chemical that requires a risk evaluation following the process established by the Lautenberg Act to determine whether conditions of use of the chemical substance pose an unreasonable risk. Prejudging the outcome of that risk evaluation process would not be appropriate.

56. In 2015, I released a reported entitled, "Failing the Grade: Asbestos in America's Schools."[5] Asbestos is still found in schools across America, and the true scope of the problem is still hard to ascertain. More than 53 million American children and six million American adults spend large portions of their days in school buildings that may contain dangerous environmental hazards. My report laid out recommendations on how to address the findings of the report.

- Millions of students attend schools that may have asbestos and this is clearly a widespread problem. How would the EPA under your direction, if confirmed, begin to assess the true scope of the problem?
- Will you commit to raising awareness among students, parents, teachers, and other employees about persistent asbestos hazards in school buildings? If not, why not?
- Do you support periodic reporting requirements for schools to report their progress related to the management and abatement of asbestos? If not, why not?
- Do you support additional funding for enforcement actions for schools that do not follow the law and may be exposing children to asbestos? If not, why not?
- Do you support public access to information about where asbestos can be found in products, school buildings, and elsewhere to empower the public to avoid preventable asbestos exposures? If not, why not?
- Do you support providing consumers with access to current information about asbestos-containing products? If not, why not?
- Do you support schools that are known to have asbestos updating their reports of where asbestos is located within a school? If not, why not?
- Do you support states communicating information to the EPA on their progress with implementation of asbestos response plans? If not, why not?
- Do you support continued research and outreach to improve public awareness of the danger of asbestos exposure? If not, why not?

If confirmed I will take the responsibility of protecting human health and the environment very seriously and in accordance with the legal authorities established by Congress. EPA has identified asbestos as a high-priority chemical and is now required to set the scope of review as well as conduct a risk evaluation of the conditions of use of the substance. Without prejudging that review process any conditions of use of asbestos or any other chemical substance that pose an unreasonable risk are required to be addressed under the law and appropriate communication of chemical reviews as well as transparency in the process is an important aspect of the law as passed by Congress. In addition to the Lautenberg Act, in 1986, Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and then later amended the act in 1990 to modify EPA's school asbestos remediation program. While I have not assessed the appropriateness of periodic reporting requirements, if confirmed I intend to use the authorities granted to the Agency by Congress under TSCA and other statutes to

[5] http://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2015-12-Markey-Asbestos-Report-Final.pdf

assess potential dangers as well as inform and protect the public as appropriate.

57.Last year entitled, "The ABCs of PCBs: A Toxic Threat to America's Schools."[6] Although Congress and the EPA banned the production and most uses of PCBs in 1979, the toxic chemical is still found in many schools across this country. In addition, my report laid out six recommendations.

- Since up 30% of students may be exposed to PCBs, this is a widespread problem. How would the EPA under your direction, if confirmed, begin to assess the true scope of the problem?
- PCBs are found within caulk and fluorescent light ballast in American schools. How would you encourage the removal of PCB-containing materials? Since these ballast are nearing the end of their useful life, EPA has said that it "recommends all PCB-containing FLBs be removed from lighting fixtures". Would you support the promulgation of a regulation under section 6(e) of TSCA that updates EPA's current regulations for PCBs and includes a requirement that all PCB-containing ballast be removed from schools and daycare facilities? If not, why not?
- There are multiple local education agencies and schools that have been seeking the advice and assistance of the EPA in dealing with PCB issues. Will you commit to assisting these agencies and schools and ensuring that the guidance EPA provides across all Regions of EPA is consistently and proactively provided? If not, why not?
- Do you support a requirement that each each school that was built or retrofitted between 1950 and 1979 (and therefor may contain PCBs) undergo a survey (to be administered by the local educational agency) in order to determine whether and where PCBs may be located within a school? If not, why not?
- Do you support a requirement for recordkeeping by state and local educational agencies of testing for, response to, and remediation of PCB hazards in schools? If not, why not?
- Do you support the EPA updating its testing guidance to encourage inspections of all schools built or retrofitted between 1950 and 1979, and improve its efforts to proactively and consistently communicate testing guidance to states, local education agencies, and schools with potential PCB hazards? If not, why not?
- Do you support the EPA developing guidance regarding the means by which parents, teachers, and employees should be notified of potential PCB hazards by schools and daycare facilities, including the manner in which such hazards should be described? If not, why not?
- Do you support the development and provision of updated guidance on the proper remediation of PCBs by EPA for schools, daycare facilities and other entities to use? If not, why not?
- Do you support the EPA proactively and regularly sharing best practices and other information outreach to states and school districts, and enforcement

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[6] https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016-10-05-Markey-PCB-Report-ABCsofPCBs.pdf

activities, related to PCB hazards in schools and daycare facilities across all EPA regions? If not, why not?
•Do you support EPA regional offices increasing their outreach to states and local education agencies to make them aware of available EPA's PCB regulations, guidance and resources? If not, why not?
•Do you support the EPA updating its current guidance on PCB hazards in schools to incorporate lessons learned from previous remediation projects and best available science? If not, why not?
•Do you support schools having detailed plans on how a school specifically plans to ensure the proper removal of PCBs before starting a PCB remediation project? Please explain.
•Do you support the authorization and appropriations of money for the testing for, response to, and remediation of PCB hazards and other environment hazards in schools? Please explain.

Addressing the issues of possible harmful exposures to chemicals in schools is an issue I would take very seriously if confirmed as EPA Administrator. While protecting children from exposure to chemical substances of concern it is important to have all the facts and ensure that an action does not create unintended consequences or put children at potentially greater peril via risk shifting or the possibility of remedial actions resulting in greater exposure to a substance. While I would not prejudge a regulatory outcome under the TSCA or any other law, I will work collaboratively with state and local governments and citizens to address issues and ensuring EPA regions are consistent and performing their legally required duties will be a priority if confirmed.

58.The Environmental Working Group reported that Oklahoma led the nation in pesticide-related illness and deaths between 2000 and 2010 based on data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.[7]
•Are you aware that your state, Oklahoma, leads the United States in pesticide-related illness and deaths? Why do you think this is the case?
•Recent reports have suggested that the increased use of pesticides is linked to the rapid decline in the bee population. What is your understanding of the science explaining the cause of the decline in bees in the United States?

I am not personally familiar with the report referenced in this question or generally the rate of pesticide usage in Oklahoma. I am generally aware of the important role bees play as pollinators, but it is unclear from the information provided in the question what specific reports are being discussed. If confirmed as Administrator, I would expect to be briefed by EPA staff before taking action on this issue and would work to ensure EPA

[7] http://www.ewg.org/agmag/2016/12/pruitt-s-home-state-leads-nation-pesticide-illnesses-and-deaths

followed all applicable legal requirements and made its decisions based on sound science.

59. Racial minorities and low-income communities are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution, siting of waste disposal facilities, and other industrial pollution causing activities. In many instances, the combination of poverty and race as well as lax enforcement and oversight of industrial activities results in worsened health outcomes by these communities.

- How will you address environmental justice and equity for minority and poor communities through EPA programs?
- What will you do to improve health equity as administrator of the EPA?
- What are your plans on reducing toxic pollution and disproportional burden of pollutants in communities of color?
- What will you do to increase enforcement and oversight in communities that are bearing the burden of environmental hazards?

- In your confirmation hearing, you committed to making environmental justice a top priority. If confirmed, will you commit to dedicating funding to assist minority and poor communities with resources and technical assistance to better engage with the EPA and industry about pollution activities and concerns occurring in their communities?

- What will you do to improve the EPA's office of Civil Rights to ensure that the EPA is in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
- Will you uphold and make a top priority throughout the agency's work, Executive order 12898, which requires federal agencies to make "achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."
- Do you vow to ensure that environmental justice activities throughout the agency remains focused on poor and minority communities?
- EPA recently developed the agency's EJ2020 action Agenda to better deliver on its historical promises of reducing disparities in environmental protection. Will you utilize and uphold this guidance and procedures outlined in this document throughout the work of the agency? Please explain.

As I testified, the Administrator plays an important role regarding environmental justice. If confirmed, I would work to faithfully execute the laws EPA is responsible for administering, in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans. If confirmed, I would expect EPA to operate in an open and transparent manner, consider the views of stakeholders as appropriate, act based on sound science, and follow the laws as established by Congress, including the Civil Rights Act. I am personally unfamiliar with the operations of EPA's Office of Civil Rights and details of current indicatives regarding environmental justice referenced in the question, but I would expect, if confirmed, I would be briefed by staff about ongoing programs and activities before taking any action.

60. If you are confirmed, do you commit not to direct the cessation of or otherwise impede the investigations or actions of the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance? If not, why not?

I am unfamiliar with the specific details of the actions referenced in the question. I would expect to be briefed by staff, in consultation with the Department of Justice as appropriate, before taking any action.

61. For each year since 1995, please provide information regarding the State of Oklahoma's environmental enforcement efforts. Specifically, for each year, please provide a list that includes:

- A brief description of each environmental enforcement action (including investigations and enforcement proceedings) initiated by the AG's office, including the date the action was initiated, the name of the subject of the action, and the nature of the action and environmental violation that led thereto.
- The annual budget of the Office of Environmental Enforcement, both in dollar terms and as a percentage of the AG's annual budget.
- The number of employees in the Office of Environmental Enforcement and in the AG's office writ large.
- A description of each environment enforcement action (including investigations and enforcement proceedings) that was closed, including a description of the resolution of the matter, whether a fine or penalty was levied (and if so the amount of such fine or penalty), whether non-monetary remedies were required (and if so, what), and whether a criminal prosecution was initiated in the matter (and if so what the resolution of the prosecution was).

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office under the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

Senator Merkley:

1. In an interview with The Oklahoman in 2015, you were talking about Oklahoma's environmental lawsuit against poultry producers who were polluting the Illinois River basin, and you said that in your view, regulation through litigation is the wrong approach. However, you have been highly active in bringing lawsuits against the EPA, whose regulations typically incorporate information gathered as a result of the kind of extensive stakeholder outreach that you seem to value. What have your experiences in suing the EPA taught you about how to lead the agency?

My experiences suing the EPA have taught me the value of ensuring that the EPA acts lawfully so that the regulations it promulgates are actually put to work protecting the environment, rather than being invalidated by courts.

2. The legal actions that you have brought against the EPA suggest that you feel the agency does not have the expertise or skill to make adequate assessments about how to maintain environmental standards. How do you propose to improve the EPA's capabilities so that the agency can achieve its goals in the proper manner?

The legal challenges I have brought have been to protect the interests of Oklahoma. If confirmed, I expect to learn more about EPA's workforce needs and ensure that the Agency is working towards achieving its goals in a proper manner.

3. You have said that the "American people are tired of seeing billions of dollars drained from our economy due to unnecessary EPA regulations". In a poll taken in December 2016 of 2,000 supporters of President-elect Trump, 64% of Trump voters support maintaining or increasing the federal budget for environmental protection and conservation. 78% of the Trump voters said they supported air pollution regulations generally, and 61% said companies should be required to reduce their carbon emissions. These are the people who supported Donald Trump, the man who nominated you for this position. Do you share the view of the majority of Trump voters and support maintaining or increasing the federal budget for environmental protection and conservation? Do you share the view of the majority of the President-elect's supporters that companies should be required to reduce their carbon emissions?

If confirmed as Administrator, I look forward to working with President Trump to achieve his environmental priorities using the tools authorized by Congress and respectful of the rule of law.

4. Several states, including Oregon, Washington, and California, have taken steps to regulate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Would you, as the leader of the EPA, attempt to undermine state-led attempts to combat climate change?

I respect and believe the states have a very important role in setting and implementing environmental standards that reflect the needs, challenges and expectations of their local communities. Congress established a clear process by which states may set more stringent standards subject to the approval of the Administrator and based on the specific request made and the corresponding record submitted. If confirmed and if I receive any such requests, I will consider them consistent with applicable statutory framework established by Congress.

5. The EPA produces a wide range of scientific documents. Are you committed to allowing EPA scientists the right of last review of all reports, executive summaries, press releases and websites related to purely science-based documents?

If confirmed, it will be my privilege to work with EPA scientists and the thousands of other dedicated public servants at EPA who have chosen to devote their careers to improving public health and our environment. Scientific documents are critical to EPA's decision-making and I commit, if confirmed, to ensure EPA scientific documents follow applicable laws and federal guidance on scientific integrity, information quality, and transparency.

6. Are you committed to transparency at EPA? If so, will you commit to making sure that EPA data is proactive made available to the public, consistent with privacy and confidential business information laws? Will you ensure that all data and data interpretation tools that are currently on EPA websites continue to be publicly available, and, if they become out of date, are archived in an accessible manner?

Yes, I am committed to transparency at EPA. I commit to making sure that EPA data is made available to the public consistent with privacy and confidentiality laws, and I will ensure that all EPA tools currently available to the public will remain accessible to the public and will be archived appropriately.

7. How would you incorporate independent science in your decision making?

If confirmed, it will be my privilege to work with EPA scientists and the thousands of other dedicated public servants at EPA who have chosen to devote their careers to improving public health and our environment. I believe EPA decision-making should be based on sound, independent science, and if confirmed, my decision-making will follow applicable laws and federal guidance on scientific integrity, information quality, and transparency.

8. Are you familiar with the scientific integrity policies of the EPA? Can you commit to adhering to EPA's scientific integrity policies?

If confirmed, I expect to learn more about EPA's scientific integrity policies and I commit to follow applicable laws regarding scientific integrity.

9. How will you work with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to ensure that the work of scientists at the EPA, and scientists that provide input to the EPA, is free from political and financial influence?

If confirmed, it will be my privilege to work with EPA scientists and the thousands of other dedicated public servants at EPA who have chosen to devote their careers to improving public health and our environment. I have no first-hand knowledge of the EPA's consultation with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and, if confirmed, I would expect to learn more about EPA's work with the office. Indeed, EPA actions must be based on sound, objective science. I commit, if confirmed, to follow applicable laws and federal guidance on scientific integrity, information quality, and transparency.

10. Pacific coast shellfish aquaculture is estimated to be a $278 million industry, but over the last decade, oyster growers have struggled to maintain yields because the water in the hatcheries is becoming too acidic for oysters to survive. The oceans are becoming more acidic because they are absorbing more and more CO2 from the atmosphere. The impact of this acidification on oyster farming has been documented in the scientific literature. On numerous occasions, you've expressed skepticism about climate change, but there is no doubt in the minds of these shellfish growers about the reality that increased CO2 levels are threatening their livelihoods. As EPA Administrator, how would you address this issue?

If confirmed, I will implement the laws that EPA is charged to administer. Under section 304 of the CWA EPA establishes water quality criteria to protect aquatic life, including shellfish. Certain EPA programs also include authorities that can support projects that may benefit the shellfish industry, including the National Estuary Program under section 320 of the CWA, the Long Island Sound programs under section 119 of the CWA, and the Chesapeake Bay program under section 117 of the CWA. Finally, section 319 of the CWA can support programs and projects to reduce runoff that may impact oyster beds..

11. There are many groups within the Christian community -- and groups from other faiths -- in the United States who agree with the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is a danger to our country, and who strongly support taking action to mitigate the causes and impacts of climate change. For example, the Southern Baptist Convention made a statement in 2007 saying that Christians are responsible for caring for creation, and emphasized the importance of acting to prevent climate change. The President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has also issued a statement echoing these views. As EPA Administrator, would you share the view that, in the interest of caring for creation, that action should be taken to prevent climate change?

I believe we can grow our economy, harvest the resources God has blessed us with, while also being good stewards of the air, land, and water by which we have been favored. If confirmed, I will work to advance the mission of EPA to protect human health and the environment within the framework established by Congress.

12. The EPA is required to follow the best available science in its rule-making process. Given that every major scientific institution in the United States agrees with the position that the warming trend over the past century is due to human activity, do you have any reason to disagree with the position of every major scientific institution in the United States? Please explain.

I agree EPA's rulemaking process must be based on the best available science. However, I have no first-hand knowledge of the specific institutions or findings referenced in the question. If confirmed, I commit EPA's rulemaking process will be based on the best available science and will follow applicable laws and federal guidance on scientific integrity, information, and transparency.

13. 97% of publishing climate scientists support the idea the climate change is real and man-made. You are an attorney, but have questioned the reality of climate change. Do you currently agree that climate change is real and man-made? If not do you believe the 97% of climate scientists that do hold that view are wrong, or lying?

The ability to measure with precision the degree and extent of human activity on our changing climate, and what to do about it, are subject to continuing debate and dialogue. If confirmed, I will make sure the agency's regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data.

14. What scientific organizations do you personally trust when it comes to the science of climate change? Please explain why you trust any organization(s) you list.

If confirmed as EPA Administrator, I will adhere to the applicable statutory authorities to fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment and will base my decisions on sound science, including advice provided by agency experts and advisory personnel.

15. Below is a list of statements from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report. For each statement, please indicate your agreement or disagreement and explain your reasoning: • "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal."
• "The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, sea level has risen, and the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased."
• "The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years."
• "Carbon dioxide concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use change emissions."
• "The ocean has absorbed about 30% of the emitted anthropogenic carbon dioxide, causing ocean acidification."
• "The largest contribution to total radiative forcing is caused by the increase in the atmospheric concentration of CO2 since 1750."
• "It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century."
• "Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes in all components of the climate system."
• "It is very likely that the Arctic sea ice cover will continue to shrink and thin and that Northern Hemisphere spring snow cover will decrease during the 21st century

as global mean surface temperature rises. Global glacier volume will further decrease."
• "Global mean sea level will continue to rise during the 21st century.... [T]he rate of sea level rise will very likely exceed that observed during 1971 to 2010 due to increased ocean warming and increased loss of mass from glaciers and ice sheets."
• "Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions."

There is a diverse range of views regarding the key drivers of our changing climate among scientists. I believe that these differences should be the subject of robust and open debate free from intimidation. If confirmed, I will continue to encourage an honest debate on our changing climate, the role of human activity, our ability to measure the degree and extent of human activity, and what to do about it. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data. I will also adhere to the applicable statutory authorities to fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment consistent with the process and rule of law established by congress.

16. Are you aware that each of the past three decades has been warmer than the one before, and warmer than all the previous decades since record keeping began in the 1880s? This trend is based on actual temperature measurements. Do you believe that there is uncertainty in this warming trend that has been directly measured? If so, please explain.

I am aware of a diverse range of conclusions regarding global temperatures, including that over the past two decades satellite data indicates there has been a leveling off of warming, which some scientists refer to as the "hiatus." I am also aware that the discrepancy between land-based temperature stations and satellite temperature stations can be attributed to expansive urbanization within in our country where artificial substances such as asphalt can interfere with the accuracy of land-based temperature stations and that the agencies charged with keeping the data do not accurately account for this type of interference. I am also aware that 'warmest year ever' claims from NASA and NOAA are based on minimal temperature differences that fall within the margin of error. Finally, I am aware that temperatures have been changing for millions of years that predate the relatively short modern record keeping efforts that began in 1880.

17. Is there a scientific basis, based on the best available science and the weight of scientific evidence, for revoking or revising the finding that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare?

To my knowledge, there is nothing currently pending before the EPA that would require I take any additional actions on the Endangerment Finding on Greenhouse Gases and if there were, it would not be wise to prejudge the outcome.

18. Last year, Oklahoma's Department of Environmental Quality added eight lakes to what is now a list of 40 lakes where people should limit their fish consumption due to the dangerous levels of mercury. Do you believe that coal fired power plants contributed to the mercury contamination in those 8 lakes? Do you believe coal fired power plants contribute to mercury contamination in the environment?

I agree with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's determinations regarding fish advisories. As discussed elsewhere in my written responses to the Committee, coal fired power plants are the largest point source emitters of mercury into the air in the United States. I do not have direct knowledge of whether these fish advisories were caused by coal fired power plants or other sources, and if so whether those sources are located in the United States or elsewhere.

19. Do you agree that fish consumption is a leading source of mercury exposure and that the source of mercury in fish comes largely from the burning of fossil fuels? If you disagree, please explain why, including citations of the authoritative bodies that support your position.

I agree that fish consumption is a leading source of mercury exposure, particularly in certain subpopulations, such as unborn children.

20. Do you agree with the American Academy of Pediatrics' finding on the importance of minimizing mercury exposures for child health? If you disagree, please explain why, including citations of the authoritative bodies that support your position.

I agree with the American Academy of Pediatrics' finding. As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, mercury is appropriately regulated as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. If I am

confirmed as Administrator, I will regulate under Section 112 in a manner that is consistent with Congress's intent in enacting that provision. I will also faithfully administer other federal statutes that regulate mercury to the extent that they are under my jurisdiction, including the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act of 1996, the Clean Water Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act

21. You are currently representing Oklahoma in challenging the EPA's supplemental finding that it is necessary and appropriate to regulate emissions of mercury and other hazardous air pollutants from power plants. Do you agree that nearly all covered facilities are already in compliance with EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standard? If not, explain why not.

The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard has not been vacated by the Supreme Court or the D.C. Circuit and currently regulates both mercury and other air toxics. I do not have personal knowledge of whether any facilities are out of compliance with the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will exercise my authorities as Administrator to enforce all laws administered and regulations promulgated by the Administrator, including the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard, against sources that are out of compliance.

22. Do you agree that ground-level ozone is a dangerous pollutant that causes respiratory and cardiovascular harm? If no, on what basis do you disagree? If you disagree, please explain why, including citations of the authoritative bodies that support your position.

I agree that ground-level ozone is a dangerous pollutant that can cause respiratory and cardiovascular harm,

23. You are currently pursuing a lawsuit against the EPA over the agency's new ozone limits, which the EPA is required to review at least every five years. The new limit is 70 parts per billion; the previous limit, set in 2008, was 75 parts per billion. Prior to the announcement of the new limit, officials at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality said that the state would be able to meet the 70 ppb level, however you have taken the position that EPA's standard is unachievable, and you have criticized the agency's data collection and its scientific processes. Could you please describe why you feel the EPA is unqualified to assess the safety and necessity of the new ozone levels? Could

you please also describe why your state's Department of Environmental Quality was wrong to say that they could meet the new ozone safety levels?

Oklahoma joined four other states in a petition for review of EPA's 2015 decision to lower the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone from 75 ppb to 70 ppb. The legal question raised by the state petitioners in the case is whether EPA set the standard at a level than can be achieved by states given the background concentrations and uncontrollable sources of ozone in many parts of the country. The briefs filed by the many State petitioners to that rule fully explain the States' position and speak for themselves. The case remains pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

24. In a 2013 interview, you said: "The evidence is clear that the current ethanol fuel mandate is unworkable. The decision by the EPA to lower that standard is good news for Oklahoma consumers. It's good the Administration finally recognized the concerns of consumers and a variety of industries and took steps to correct this flawed program." Please explain what you meant by "unworkable" and "flawed program". Do you still hold this view? If not, what caused you to change your view?

As I indicated during my nomination hearing, the Administrator and the EPA routinely missed the statutory targets in publishing the Renewable Volume Obligations each year, creating great uncertainty in the marketplace. In fact, in some years they missed the timeline, as far as submitting those targets, by over a year; in some cases over two years. The EPA failed to adhere to statutory requirements, resulting in a flawed and unworkable program.

25. In December 2015, the President-elect said of Senator Ted Cruz' opposition to the RFS, "…oil pays him a lot of money, he's got to be for oil, right? The oil companies give him a lot of money. So, but I'm with you. I'm with everybody. I'm with everybody. Look, I'm self-funding. I have no oil company. I have no special interest." In contrast, you have received over $300,000 from the fossil fuel industry, and have sent at least one letter to EPA on your own letter head that was drafted by the oil industry. If you are confirmed as EPA Administrator, will you commit to ensuring that your previous donors will not exert undue influence over the regulatory process and your decision-making at EPA with regard to the Renewable Fuels Standard?

If confirmed, I will work to administer the RFS in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

26. If the Sixth Circuit and the Supreme Court approve EPA's "Waters of the United States" rule defining the jurisdictional extent of the Clean Water Act, would you direct the EPA to amend that rule? If so, how? If the courts invalidate EPA's "Waters of the United States" rule, how would you direct the EPA to define which waterways and wetlands are protected by the Clean Water Act?

If I am confirmed, I will seek to make changes to the WOTUS rule following all appropriate administrative procedures, including the requirements of notice and comment under the Administrative Procedure Act.

27. In your opinion, under what circumstances should the Clean Water Act apply to pollution being discharged into groundwater? If the Ninth Circuit's forthcoming decision in Hawai'i Wildlife Fund v. County of Maui conflicts with your view, would you direct the EPA to write a new regulation overruling the 9th Circuit?

I believe that the Clean Water Act applies only to discharges to surface water, not groundwater. In contrast, the Safe Drinking Water Act requires permits for underground injection into certain aquifers. I cannot speculate on a judicial decision that has not been issued.

28. You've taken money from Monsanto, one the world's largest sellers of pesticides, in your previous electoral campaigns. How will you ensure that the safety of pesticides is vetted and regulated by the EPA according to the best science on risk and potential harm, rather than the profit-making interests of your campaign financiers? In your role as EPA administrator, how will ensure the agency is not unduly influenced by the political power of these large corporations?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would expect EPA's regulatory process relating to pesticides to be open and transparent and based on sound science in accordance with EPA's legal authorities.

29. What will you do to ensure EPA is conducting a transparent process regarding pesticide regulation? Please specify how you will approach notifying the public regarding pesticides in terms of notice of actions, publication of information (including studies and data) in the dockets, or timely responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act. If you do not believe in a transparent process, why not?

I am committed to transparency at EPA. I commit to making sure that EPA data is made available to the public consistent with applicable privacy and

confidentiality laws, and I will work to ensure that EPA uses a variety of tools and methods to keep the public informed about EPA activities as they relate to pesticide regulation if I am confirmed.

30. What will you do to work with pesticide manufacturers, distributors, conservation organizations, farmers, and beekeepers to ensure pesticide labels are clear and enforceable? Will you commit to enforcing these labels? If you will not work on this issue, why not?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would expect EPA's regulatory process relating to pesticides to be open and transparent and based on sound science in accordance with EPA's legal authorities.

31. EPA defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Would you as EPA administrator advance the goal of environmental justice and if so, how?

If confirmed, I would work to faithfully execute the laws EPA is responsible for administering in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans. As I testified, the Administrator plays an important role in regarding environmental justice.

32. Exposure to air toxicity, water pollution, lead, and hazardous waste sites results in disproportionate levels of disease, disability, and mortality amongst communities of color. As Administrator, what will you do to protect America's most vulnerable and underrepresented communities from environmental hazards and reduce the burden of toxicity shouldered by these communities?

As I testified, the Administrator plays an important role in regarding environmental justice. If confirmed, I would work to faithfully execute the laws EPA is responsible for administering in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans. If confirmed, I would expect EPA to operate in an open and transparent manner, consider the views of stakeholders as appropriate, act based on sound science, and follow the laws as established by Congress

33. President-Elect Trump has stated that the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, would never have happened if he was president. If appointed, what

measures do you plan to take to protect drinking water across the country and particularly for the most vulnerable populations?

If confirmed, I will return EPA's focus to carrying out its core missions, including, as appropriate, use of EPA's emergency order authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

34. Oklahoma has seen a massive increase in earthquakes recently (907 (>magnitude 3.0) in 2016 and 585 in 2015 - which is more than the previous 35 years combined). The Oklahoma Geological Survey released a report in 2015 linking the disposal of fracking wastewater with earthquakes in Oklahoma. As recently as November 2016, a 5.0 magnitude earthquake struck Cushing, Oklahoma. Forty to fifty buildings were reported to have been damaged; Governor Mary Fallin felt the damage was substantial enough to declare a state of emergency for Payne County, where Cushing is located (a first step towards being granted federal aid). • What was the incidence of earthquakes in Oklahoma prior to widespread use of hydraulic fracturing in the past decade?
• What has been the incidence of earthquakes in Oklahoma in the past 10 years, since widespread use of hydraulic fracturing?
• What have been the economic and health impacts of earthquakes in Oklahoma in the past 10 years?
• What was your rationale for not using the office of the Attorney General to change the disposal practices of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing to protect the citizens of Oklahoma?

As I discussed at my confirmation hearing, the State of Oklahoma has taken seismicity issues very seriously and has taken proactive and aggressive actions. Oklahoma, as have other states, been successfully regulating hydraulic fracturing since the 40's and 50's. State and federal geologists have largely confirmed that the while the act of hydraulic fracturing itself poses little seismicity risk, the underground injection of wastewater at certain pressures and volumes can result in some seismic activity. While earthquakes have increased in frequency in recent years, the State has taken aggressive actions and reports have indicated the rate of seismic events has recently declined. Seismic activity can of course have significant impacts on communities and the activities linked to seismicity concerns in Oklahoma are regulated under state law by other agencies that my office works with as appropriate under Oklahoma law.

35. The EPA is the front line agency serving or assisting Indian Country with environmental protection and recognition of treaty rights. As EPA Administrator, would the you commit to the protection of tribal treaty rights in agency decision making processes in situations where rights may be affected by EPA actions

including federal approval of: • state water quality standards (CWA)
• state 401 water quality certifications
• state distribution and use of pesticides (FIFRA)
• oil spill program countermeasures (SPCC)?

If confirmed, I will commit to ensuring that the United States meets all treaty obligations that it has pursuant to treaties with Indian Tribes.

36. Will you support current efforts to establish federal baseline water quality standards for Indian Reservations that do not currently have Clean Water Act standards in place? Please explain why or why not. An advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on this initiative was published in the Federal Register on September 29, 2016.

Because an advance notice of proposed rulemaking has been published, this matter will come before me for decision if I am confirmed as Administrator. Thus, I will not prejudge the outcome, but rather will commit to fairly evaluating the matter and reaching a sound decision.

37. The 2016 Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (TSCA) requires the EPA Administrator to identify "potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations" in chemical assessments to ensure their protection. Tribal and local populations in the Pacific Northwest consume high quantities of fish that can result in greater exposure to chemical contaminants. How will the new Administration implement TSCA reform to ensure that tribes and vulnerable populations unique to individual states are protected by federal rules on toxic substances?

The Lautenberg Act defined the term "potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations" as "a group of individuals within the general population identified by the Administrator who, due to either greater susceptibility or greater exposure, may be at greater risk than the general population of adverse health effects from exposure to a chemical substance or mixture, such as infants, children, pregnant women, workers, or the elderly." Protecting citizens that are either more susceptible or who have greater exposure to a substance is an important aspect of the law and I will take great care to ensure the Act is faithfully executed if I am confirmed.

38. Will you commit to continue EPA's Treaty Rights Guidance and that initiative's implementation? Will you commit to continue EPA's Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Tribes?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will evaluate all guidance documents and policies to ensure that they represent faithful execution of the duties imposed on me, and powers granted to me, by Congress. If the guidance and policy you referenced, I will keep them in place.

39. The 2014 U.S. National Climate Assessment concludes that climate change will impact every community in the United States, and that low-income communities and communities of color will be the hardest hit. These vulnerable communities will feel the impacts of climate change more severely due to lower quality housing, which is often less equipped to safely weather severe storms, severe heat, and freezing temperatures. How will you work to reduce climate change risks in low-income communities and communities of color?

I believe environmental justice for low-income and minority communities is an important role of the EPA Administrator. If confirmed, I will adhere to the applicable statutory authorities to fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment for all of our nation's citizens.

40. I understand that there are two political action committees affiliated with you. A spokesperson has made the statement that both PACs will be closed by the end of the month. Can you confirm that that both PACs will be closed by then?

I do not control either of the political action committees to which you refer, and thus cannot confirm their intentions. As you have heard, however, I have also heard that both entities have announced that they will wind down their activities.

41. It has also been reported that a 501(c)(4) organization called Protecting America Now has been created to raise funds to support your confirmation. If you are confirmed, will you make sure that Protecting American Now is disbanded? Please provide a list of Protecting America Now's donors.

I am not affiliated in any way with "Protecting America Now," and thus have no ability to disband the organization. For the same reason, I have no knowledge of the group's donors.

42. When is it appropriate for the Federal government to regulate pollution rather than states?

Many federal environmental statutes were designed with the idea that the states would be the principal implementer. I believe it is essential to begin with that model. There are instances where the federal government approves or disapproves state programs or issues implementation plans in lieu of the state involved. However, this should be the vast exception to the rule. Some environmental statutes like CERCLA place the principal responsibility with the federal government for the important remediation activities under that statute. However, even with statutes like CERCLA, EPA still have an obligation with work with states and localities in designating sites which need remediation and most importantly in developing remediation plans.

43. Do you personally disagree with any existing Federal environmental law, or any provisions of any existing Federal environmental laws? If so, please explain which and why.

If confirmed, I will faithfully execute the laws as enacted by Congress.

44. Which EPA regulations do you believe should instead be left to states to implement, and why?

I believe federal environmental statutes are designed with states as a primary implementer. Environmental statutes envision that states have the delegated enforcement and primacy to implement and enforce environmental statutes. Only when that is not happening or when negotiations between and among states breakdown should EPA determine a dispute and only after attempting to assist states negotiate a local solution. I am fond of saying that we need national standards and neighborhood solutions. I think that should shape the work of the EPA.

45. When states or local governments regulate pollution with different sets of standards, various industry groups have raised the concern that it creates a patchwork of regulatory policies that make compliance difficult. Do you share this concern, and why?

As I testified in the hearing, I have pursued opportunities to address interstate environmental quality matters. One of the examples I have highlighted is the work that Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel and I took to address an enforceable water quality standard between Arkansas and Oklahoma. I have also discussed how Texas should be responsible when air quality issues affect Oklahoma and my experience with that. When

negotiations among and between states breakdown EPA has a role to set environmental standards. However, that is should be a last course of action instead of the first. I believe environmental statutes are designed with states as a primary implementer. Environmental statutes envision that states have the delegated enforcement and primacy to implement and enforce environmental statutes. Only when that is not happening or when negotiations between and among states breakdown should EPA determine a dispute and only after attempting to assist states negotiate a local solution. I am fond of saying that we need national standards and neighborhood solutions. I think that should shape the work of the EPA.

46. Do you believe that the Renewable Fuel Standard is an appropriate regulatory role for the EPA versus states?

Section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act provides the Administrator of the EPA with the authority and responsibility to administer the RFS program. If confirmed, I will work to administer the RFS in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

47. Do you agree that there should be national fuel economy standards to reduce tailpipe pollution from cars and make vehicles more fuel efficient? Please explain.

While the EPA regulates emissions under the Clean Air Act, it is true that Congress vested authority to regulate fuel economy through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards" framework set forth originally in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. Congress vested responsibility for the CAFE program in the Department of Transportation, not the EPA; accordingly, I take no position on Congress's policy decision on this subject.

48. Do you support California's authority under the Clean Air Act to receive a waiver from the EPA to set emissions standards for vehicles that are stronger than EPA standards?

In the Clean Air Act, Congress provided that the EPA Administrator may waive the Clean Air Act's preemptive effect over some of California's state air quality standards for mobile sources, when certain specific statutory criteria are met. If confirmed as EPA Administrator, I will administer this program in accordance with Congress's objectives, on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the law and with the administrative record in any given case, upon proper petition by California.

49. You are currently representing Oklahoma as one of 13 petitioners challenging EPA's standards limiting conventional, toxic, and greenhouse gas pollutants from new oil and gas facilities. Please describe how Oklahoma would prefer to handle these pollutants in the absence of EPA regulation. If your proposed pollution standards are more lax than the EPA's standards, please provide information supporting the why your standards are preferable from a public health standpoint.

As Attorney General, I sought to ensure that the Oklahoma Legislature retained its power to make policy for Oklahoma. Policymaking is the province of the legislature. Thus, I have no opinion with regard to what environmental policy might be appropriate.

50. Please also describe, and provide the same information, for what Oklahoma's policies would be should Oklahoma and its fellow petitioners be successful in challenging the EPA's implementation of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule.

As my testimony indicates, I firmly believe that the EPA plays an important role in addressing interstate air quality issues, but it must do so within the bounds of its legal authority and justified by a record of support. The actions undertaken by the Office of Attorney General challenging certain EPA regulations have been because EPA exceeded it legal authorities as established by Congress and interpreted by the courts. The Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma.

51. You also represent Oklahoma as a petitioner in ongoing litigation against the EPA's 111(b) standards for CO2 emissions for new, modified, and reconstructed power plants. Should you win your suit, will Oklahoma take any steps to regulate power plant CO2 emissions, or does the state plan to continue not regulating CO2 emissions?

I will not prejudge the outcome of any rule that is the subject of ongoing litigation if I am confirmed.

52. As Attorney General, your role was also to prosecute environmental cases within Oklahoma. Please list all environmental cases you have originated as Oklahoma's Attorney General, and provide all documents related to those cases and a summary of the outcomes of those cases.

Please see the list of cases attached to this response.

53. The Environmental Protection Unit was eliminated as a group within the Attorney General's office once you became Attorney General. This appears to indicate a decrease in support, or at least priority, for pursuing environmental cases within your office compared to your predecessor. To clarify if you have continued to pursue environmental cases as Oklahoma Attorney General, please provide description and documentation of all the environmental cases that were handled by your office versus the AG's office during Drew Edmondson's tenure. Please also describe the work your office did on any environmental cases that were begun during your predecessor's tenure but were continued or completed by your office.

My office continues to employ attorneys vested with responsibilities related to environmental protection, including the attorney who served as the lead attorney on the previous attorney general's "environmental protection unit." That attorney's responsibilities remain unchanged (he has been promoted, in fact), and he pursues exactly the kind of cases that he pursued under the previous attorney general. The only thing that changed was the internal organization of the attorneys vested with those responsibilities, because I concluded (consistent with the practices of every attorney general in the State's history but for my immediate predecessor) that it was not operationally efficient to have a separate unit for such work. Thus, I chose to house that work in the Office's Public Protection Unit and then later in the Solicitor General's Unit. As I explained in my testimony to the committee, my office continues to pursue environmental cases. I do not possess lists of cases pursued my predecessor so I cannot provide the comparative that you request. I am aware that many environmental cases take many, many years to litigate to completion, so some of the actions that my Office continues to pursue were initiated prior to my taking office. Please see attached list of cases.

54. As part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, Congress passed the Columbia River Restoration Act, a program which gives the EPA authority to create a competitive grant program to address environmental cleanup and restoration in the Columbia River Basin. This program empowers states and local communities to better coordinate and implement local cleanup and restoration efforts. Will you, as EPA administrator, work to advance and implement this bipartisan effort to empower local entities and states?

While I am not familiar with the Columbia River Basin restoration program, I support collaborative efforts and neighborhood solutions. I also respect

Congressional authorizations. If confirmed, I will ask the EPA staff to brief me on this program and the new authority granted by Congress.

55. In January, 2017, the EPA announced $17 million in credit assistance for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). This program, initially passed into law as part of the 2014 WRDA bill, now has the funding needed to allow EPA to make approximately $1 billion in loans and leverage a total $2 billion in total water-infrastructure investment. As you mentioned in your hearing, water infrastructure is critically needed, but often overlooked. Will you, as EPA administrator, work to ensure adequate resources to implement the WIFIA loan program, and seek further funding and assistance for other water infrastructure programs and initiatives, such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund?

Yes, if confirmed.

56. The Federal Government has a long history of activities within Portland Harbor, which in 2000 was designated a Superfund site and is now one of the largest and most complex Superfund sites in the country. The history of Federal activities within the Superfund site includes ship building, repairing, and dismantling, as well as a variety other activities that likely led to some amount of contamination of the river. Today, the Willamette river sediment within the Portland Harbor Superfund site is contaminated with compounds associated with the activities carried out by the Federal government over the course of many decades. Now that the Environmental Protection Agency has issued its final Record of Decision for this Superfund site, there will be a process to divide up cleanup responsibilities among parties responsible for the contamination. Can you commit to work with the appropriate Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense and Department of Justice, to ensure that the Federal government engages proactively with relevant stakeholders during the allocation process, takes ownership for its share of the contamination, and pays its fair share of the cleanup?

I am not familiar with the details of the remedy that has been selected for the Portland Harbor Superfund site. If confirmed, I expect to make clean up of contaminated sites one of my priorities and would be interested in hearing the views of the Congressional Delegation and other stakeholders on the issues raised by this cleanup plan.

<u>Senator Sanders:</u>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approximately 15,000 employees. The following questions ask how you, as Administrator, would treat civil servants and make human resource decisions.

1. Do you support--and promise to uphold--the merit system principles set forth in Chapter 23 Title 5 U.S. Code, which prohibit factors other than merit from consideration in civil service employment decisions?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing the law as enacted by Congress.

2. As Administrator, do you support use of the Holman Rule, which allows any member of Congress to propose amending an appropriations bill to single out a government employee or cut a specific program? Will you support Congress in passing an amendment under the Holman Rule?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would implement the law and work with the Agency in accordance with the laws passed by Congress.

3. Is retention and recruitment of a high quality scientific workforce at EPA a priority for you?

Yes.

4. As Administrator, do you believe that you will be better able to recruit and retain top talent at the EPA under conditions where Congress is able to individually target employees based on political considerations?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would implement the law and work with the Agency in accordance with the laws passed by Congress.

5. As Administrator, do you support Congress targeting and altering the salaries of individuals within the EPA?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would implement the law and work with the Agency in accordance with the laws passed by Congress.

6. As Administrator, how will you generally view the division of responsibility and authority between Congress and your Department on personnel issues?

In my view, Congress passes the laws governing executive branch personnel.

On June 14 2016, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy signed an order on "Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Employees" (http://src.bna.com/f0T) and said at the time that it "reinforces that discrimination of any kind in the EPA workplace is unacceptable, including discrimination on the basis of gender identity, expression or perceived non-conformity." Among other things, the order states that an "employee should be permitted to use the [sanitary and related] facilities that correspond with their gender identity." This is in stark contrast to the suit you filed with 10 other attorneys general challenging the guidance issued under President Obama on accommodating transgender students in public schools.

7. Will you as EPA Administrator ensure that Administrator McCarthy's order is vigorously implemented, and continue to ensure that transgender and gender non-conforming employees are not discriminated against on the basis of their gender-identities?

If confirmed, I commit to protecting the rights of all EPA employees and will follow the law.

As Attorney General, you disbanded your office's Environmental Protection Unit and reduced your office's funding for environmental law to zero.

8. In your personal opinion, what are the most pressing air and water quality challenges that deserve the attention of the EPA? What would you do at the EPA to better address these challenges, if anything?

As discussed, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality -- not the Office of Attorney General -- has primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma. Consistent with the practice of every Attorney General save one, I determined that a standalone unit was operationally inefficient. I opted to combine the Environmental Protection Unit and the Consumer Protection Unit into a single unit called the "Public Protection Unit." The Public Protection Unit continued the work of the Environmental Protection Unit, and that work continues to this day, headed by the very same attorney who worked in the Environmental Protection Unit under the prior Attorney General. As discussed, I believe EPA plays an

important role in addressing cross-state pollution, and if confirmed, I would expect to work cooperatively with states to address the problems of environmental pollution.

The Keystone Sanitary Landfill (KSL) is an existing 714-acre landfill located in the boroughs of Dunmore and Throop, Pennsylvania. KSL has submitted an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a permit modification to expand the facility's disposal capacity by approximately 145 million cubic yards. The permitting and approval of this process is strictly under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania DEP.

Under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, states play a lead role in ensuring the federal criteria for operating municipal solid waste and industrial waste landfills regulations are met, and they may set more stringent requirements. Under the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, EPA was authorized to determine the adequacy of the state permit programs. In the absence of an approved state program, the federal requirements must be met by waste facilities.

9.Are you committed to maintaining the process to determine the adequacy of a state's municipal solid waste management plan as required under the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984?

If confirmed, I commit to faithfully executing the laws I would be responsible for administering as EPA Administrator.

10.Further, if a state does not have an approved state program, are you committed to inspecting and enforcing federal requirements including the prohibition on open dumping?

If confirmed, I commit to faithfully executing the laws I would be responsible for administering as EPA Administrator.

11.Constituents have expressed concerns regarding the potential impact on the environment, quality of life, health and traffic congestion as a result of the Keystone Sanitary Landfill. How do you intend to work collaboratively with states in the event that a state violates the federal Clean Water Act or the Safe Drinking Water Act or a state requests assistance from EPA?

I believe states play an important role in administering environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act, and if confirmed, I would expect to work cooperatively with states toward our shared goal of protecting human health and the environment consistent with EPA's legal authorities.

During your hearing, you stated that climate change was not a hoax, but you also were reluctant to discuss your views on the causes of climate change. You stated that your personal views were not relevant. However, as Attorney General, you challenged EPA's 2009 finding that greenhouse gases, including those from fossil fuels, endanger public health and welfare, due to anthropogenic climate change. The EPA went through an exhaustive scientific review and public comment process prior to issuing the Endangerment Finding, but in the lawsuit you labeled it "arbitrary and capricious." The Endangerment Finding references more than 100 published scientific studies and reports by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program/U.S. Global Change Research Program, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the National Research Council of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

12.As Administrator, will you recognize the findings of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program/U.S. Global Change Research Program and the National Research Council of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences on the science of climate change, including its anthropogenic causes?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data, including the ever-evolving understanding of the impact increasing greenhouse gases have on our changing climate.

In 2014, the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics and the University of Vermont released the Vermont Climate Assessment report. The report found that many of our state's communities have already been highly impacted by climatic changes and are engaged in processes to respond to these transitions. Some populations and regions of the state are particularly vulnerable, including rural areas and those increasingly exposed to extreme weather events. Flooding, such as experienced under Tropical Storm Irene, has been devastating to some of our state's communities. EPA partnered with Vermont in incorporating smart growth policies to increase flood resilience after the tropical storm. Under direction from Executive Order 13653, Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change, EPA and New England's EPA Region 1 both have developed climate adaptation plans that assist our region in preparing for these changes.

13.Will you support EPA's continued climate adaptation planning and implementation in accordance with Executive Order 13653?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure the agency complies with and operates according to all applicable Executive Orders.

14.Do you support the Paris Climate Agreement?

The role of the United States in the Paris Agreement is a State Department matter. If confirmed, I will work to advance the mission of the EPA, which is to protect human health and the environment, consistent with the State Department's strategy for international engagement on climate change.

15.What are your plans for implementing the Paris Climate Agreement?

Should the government decide to continue to participate in the Paris Agreement and if I am confirmed as Administrator, I will collaborate with all involved agencies to ensure that commitments made on behalf of the United States are achievable and consistent with requisite legal authorities delegated by Congress.

You have written that the climate change "... debate is far from settled. Scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming and its connection to the actions of mankind."

16.What would it take for you to admit that all three of these allegations are incorrect?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data, including the ever-evolving understanding of the impact increasing greenhouse gases have on our changing climate.

17.Which scientists, saying what, would change your mind?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data, including the ever-evolving

understanding of the impact increasing greenhouse gases have on our changing climate.

18.If Harold Hamm told you he was no longer a climate change denier, would you believe him?

I do not believe he is a climate change "denier."

19.President Elect Trump's Secretary of State nominee, Rex Tillerson, is no longer a climate change denier. Why do you disagree with Tillerson?

There is a diverse range of views regarding the key drivers of our changing climate among scientists, policy-makers and President Trump's nominees. I believe that these differences should be the subject of robust and open debate free from intimidation. If confirmed, I will continue to encourage an honest debate on our changing climate, the role of human activity, our ability to measure the degree and extent of human activity, and what to do about it.

The Clean Air Act, and its amendments, sets limits on harmful pollutants like mercury and sulfur dioxide. As Oklahoma's Attorney General, you have repeatedly brought lawsuits against the EPA for their enforcement of the Clean Air Act, stating that the federal government has overstepped its authority to regulate and that these decisions are best left to the states. Pollution, like mercury and sulfur dioxide, from Midwest coal-fired power plants is blown right into New England. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that bio-accumulates in the fish in our streams and lakes, and places our pregnant women and young children at particular health risk. Sulfur dioxide contributes to acid rain that that harms the forests and waters of New England.

20.If you do not believe that the EPA should have the regulatory authority that would protect states such as Vermont from interstate pollution, that leaves these science and public health decisions to the courts. Can you explain why federal courts should be in the position of determining safe levels of pollution to protect the health and welfare of Vermonters, as opposed to the federal agency who mission it is to protect human health and the environment -- air, water, and land?

As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, I agree that the Clean Air Act gives EPA an important role in addressing interstate pollution issues, among many other things. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will exercise

my authority in this area consistent with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

Data shows that mercury pollution in the North Atlantic and mercury concentrations in our fisheries have fallen dramatically since the United States started requiring stronger emission controls from coal power plants.

21.Given this scientific confirmation of these regulations working how can you assure us that if you are confirmed to lead the EPA you will continue to accelerate the clean-up of all sources of mercury emissions, including coal power plants?

I agree that there has been a consistent downward trend in mercury concentrations, but note that this trend began well before EPA promulgated the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, mercury is appropriately regulated as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will regulate under Section 112 in a manner that is consistent with Congress's intent in enacting that provision. I will also faithfully administer other federal statutes that regulate mercury to the extent that they are under my jurisdiction, including the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act of 1996, the Clean Water Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

It is widely reported that EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) will be one of the first policies to be dropped under the new administration.

22.Do you envision that you will seek to replace the CPP with some other program that also would promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions nationally?

While I will not prejudge the outcome of any Rule that is the subject of ongoing litigation, if confirmed, I will work to achieve the objectives of EPA-administered laws consistent with the process and rule of law set out by Congress.

23.According to the EPA, "The Clean Power Plan will lead to climate and health benefits worth an estimated $55 billion to $93 billion in 2030, including avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in

children." What do you say to parents who have children with asthma who are worried that the dismantling of the CPP?

If confirmed, I will administer environmental laws that protect human health and the environment within the framework established by Congress. I will follow explicit cost-benefit obligations to ensure the benefits are associated with the pollutant being regulated and the costs are reflective of market realities.

President-elect Trump has stated that the water poisoning that happened in Flint Michigan "would never have happened if I were president." More than 1,000 communities have lead poisoning levels higher than those found in Flint Michigan.

24. If you were head of EPA what actions would you take to ensure that every community has clean water to drink?

If confirmed, I will focus on EPA's core missions, including, as appropriate, use of EPA's emergency order authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act. I also will implement the newly revised TSCA statute to address chemicals and will continue implementation of monitoring, review, and regulation of contaminants under the SDWA.

25. What federal financial commitments would you need and what changes in environmental laws, policies and regulations would you need to ensure that a Flint-like situation never happens again?

It is my understanding that some requirements in the Safe Drinking Water Act Lead and Copper Rule relating to monitoring and when corrosion control treatment is mandated are ambiguous and need to be clarified to make both compliance and enforcement easier and prevent a Flint-like situation from happening again. If confirmed, I will ensure that the revisions to that rule proceed expeditiously. As to resources, I will return EPA's focus, including resources, to carrying out its core missions. In addition, I believe that the new WIFIA program offers significant opportunities to leverage additional infrastructure investments.

Lake Champlain is one of Vermont's most treasured environmental features. Tourism and property values are tied to the health of the lake—keeping its waters swimmable, fishable and drinkable. Run-off—including from lawns, paved roads and parking lots, and farmlands—contributes to high levels of phosphorus that spur algae growth. The algae turns the lake green and can be toxic. In 2016, EPA released new phosphorus limits for the lake by establishing a TMDL (Total

Maximum Daily Load). We are concerned that you, as Attorney General, have opposed other clean-ups similar to that of Lake Champlain. You signed an amicus brief opposing EPA's clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay under the Clean Water Act.

26.As Administrator, will you continue the agency's support for the clean-up of Lake Champlain through these new TMDLs?

A TMDL under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act does not establish a water quality standard. It is a tool for achieving a water quality standard by determining how much of a particular pollutant, like phosphorus, that a body of water can assimilate and achieve the water quality standard. EPA recently issued new phosphorus TMDLs for Lake Champlain to implement Vermont's water quality standards. These replace a prior TMDL that EPA had approved in 2002 and then disapproved 9 years later after being sued by the Conservation Law Foundation. I am not familiar with the details of either the original Vermont TMDL that EPA approved or the new TMDLs that EPA developed after being sued. I believe TMDLs can only be successful if developed in a collaborative fashion. It is my hope that the new Lake Champlain TMDLs were developed in such a fashion and in accordance with the law. If so, I am not aware of any reason that I would not support their implementation, if confirmed as EPA's administrator.

27.Specifically, should Vermont fail to make satisfactory progress toward meeting the TMDL, would you support EPA's prior pledge to ramp up federal oversight of Vermont programs and crack down on pollution from wastewater treatment facilities? If not, how will you ensure Clean Water Act obligations are satisfied?

Under Clean Water Act regulations (40 CFR 122.44), limits in a NPDES permit for a point source must be consistent with any waste load allocation for the discharge set forth in a TMDL and once these limits are part of a permit, they are federally enforceable. Vermont is authorized to carry out its own permitting program in lieu of the federal permitting program. If confirmed, I will work with the State of Vermont to see that the requirements of the Clean Water Act are met.

The EPA works with other state and federal agencies in developing contingency plans in the event of an oil spill. These plans identify and coordinate the activities of the different government agencies and private organizations involved in the response. Vermonters are concerned about the potential for oil spills, particularly from rail accidents, that might adversely affect the state's waters. We view the EPA as a critical partner in developing plans for, and responding to, the case of an oil spill with potential impacts to a water body or other area subject to the

jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

28. Do you as Administrator commit to the EPA's partnership with the states in developing plans for, and responding to, the case of an oil spill that affects waters under its jurisdiction, such as Lake Champlain?

EPA, in partnership with other federal agencies on the National Response Team, has a significant role in carrying out the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. EPA is the lead agency for responses under the Oil Pollution Act to spills into inland waters (other than the Great Lakes) and the Coast Guard is the lead agency for coastal waters and the Great Lakes). If confirmed, I will support EPA's continued implementation of the oil spill response authorities given to it by Congress.

At EPA, science provides the foundation for Agency policies, actions, and decisions made on behalf of the American people.

29. What should be the role of science in the development of EPA policies, rules, and regulations?

I fully believe, as former EPA administrators have stated, that science must serve as "the backbone" of EPA actions.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell has observed that "consumer spending for outdoor recreation is greater than household utilities and pharmaceuticals combined — and yet the federal government has never fully recognized or quantified these benefits." Outdoor recreation is not just an issue of concern to the Department of the Interior, it depends on clean air and water, which are under the purview of the EPA. The health and welfare of Americans is dependent on their ability to be actively engaged outdoors, breathing clean air and drinking clean water.

30. If under your watch, the EPA seeks to reduce regulations, will you take into account the economic losses from recreation to places like Vermont before doing so?

As I indicated in my testimony, if confirmed, my primary goal would be to protect the American people through lawful regulations. I understand environmental statutes, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act,

prescribe in certain instances that the EPA consider economic impacts in the rulemaking process. If confirmed, I commit to fully follow the law as provided by Congress.

Much of the nation's and the world's attention has been focused in recent months on the Dakota Access Pipeline, the construction of which crosses multiple states. Many pipelines on Indian lands are located entirely within a single state, however. Here EPA is not always the primary regulator, and state laws do not always apply. The health and environmental consequences of pipeline failures, however, can be enormous.

31.Will you commit to work with this Committee and other agencies to address the environmental and public health and safety issues associated with the operation of pipelines on Indian lands, including purely intrastate pipeline facilities?

If confirmed, I will faithfully execute all applicable laws as Administrator. As was discussed at my confirmation hearing I have worked successfully with Oklahoma Tribes and I would use my role to address environmental and public health and safety issues on state, federal, and tribal lands.

Yesterday, the Obama Administration took the final step in laying out a process for the next administration to provide a full environmental review for the Dakota Access pipeline.

32.Will you commit to fully supporting the Army Corps of Engineers as it conducts reviews of alternative routes and to meaningful consultation with Native American tribes when a project could affect their tribal treaty rights?

I cannot speak to the actions of the Army Corps of Engineers but if confirmed I will carry out any legal duties required by the Administrator of the EPA.

Oil and natural gas extraction by way of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," has expanded rapidly in the United States, including in your state of Oklahoma. As you know, there are increasing concerns about water and air contamination, including the seismic activity associated with wastewater disposal. EPA conducted a study of hydraulic fracturing's drinking water impacts and released a final report in December 2016. The agency found "hydraulic fracturing activities can impact drinking water resources under some circumstances." The report identifies certain conditions under which impacts from hydraulic fracturing activities can be more frequent or severe. Both Vermont and New York have

banned hydraulic fracturing out of concerns for its public health and environmental effects.

33. Do you concur with the conclusions of the EPA's final report on hydraulic fracturing and drinking water?

As I discussed at my confirmation hearing, states like my home state of Oklahoma have been successfully regulating hydraulic fracturing for decades. As EPA officials have indicated the number of identified cases of drinking water contamination related to hydraulic fracturing activities is small particularly compared to the large number of hydraulically fractured wells and I agree with that assessment.

34. Are there gaps in available data that make it difficult for the EPA to fully assess hydraulic fracturing effects on drinking water as well as air quality?

Hydraulic fracturing has been extensively studied by state, federal, and non-governmental bodies.

35. What further studies—if any—do you believe would be appropriate for EPA to conduct on the effects of hydraulic fracturing on air and water quality?

I am not aware of any urgent need for new studies of hydraulic fracturing but if confirmed I commit to review any new information on the subject.

36. Do you agree, as EPA scientists found, that of the 1,606 chemicals injected for hydraulic fracturing, 173 chemicals are a proven risk to public health?

Risk encompasses both hazard as well as a likelihood of exposure. EPA found that 173 of the chemicals listed can be hazardous but did not speak to their risk likely because of their very low probability of exposure.

To date communities have been absorbing the costs of damage from oil and gas operations, whether that is in terms of health impacts, contaminated soils and water, which depress property values and destroy businesses, residential neighborhoods turned into industrial zones, earthquakes caused by injection wells (which are increasingly being excluded from homeowner insurance policies) and more.

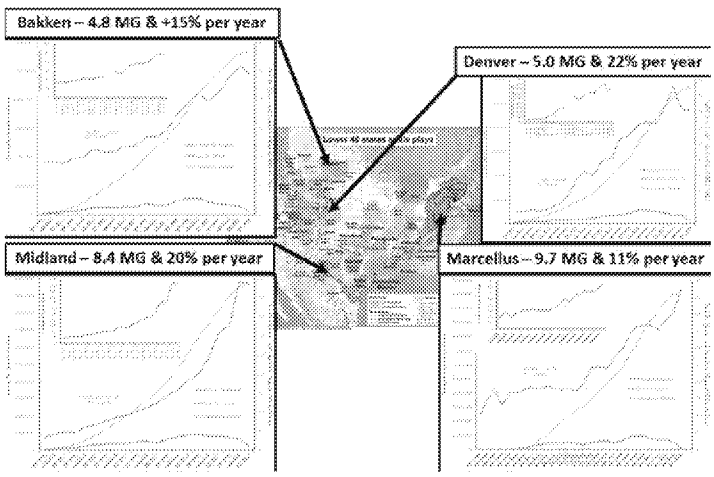
37. What would be your approach as Attorney General to ensuring that communities do not to absorb these costs, and operators become responsible for the full costs of their operations, including damages?

As discussed at my confirmation hearing as Attorney General I have taken on oil and natural gas companies who violated Oklahoma laws and regulations. If confirmed, I will uphold and execute the laws as established by Congress.

38. Given that High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF), or fracking gas wells, currently require an average of 4.8-9.7 million gallons of fresh water to fracture a single well (Note: This demand is growing by 11-20% per year), and only 4.5-7.5% of this water is being recycled, would you consider modern-day oil and gas drilling to be a long-term, sustainable solution to our country's energy needs?"

EPA's final report on hydraulic fracturing and drinking water found that in most cases hydraulic fracturing constituted "generally less than 1% of total water use" in counties and stated that their findings suggested "that hydraulic fracturing operations represented a relatively small user of water in most counties." I agree with these specific EPA conclusions.

The Geography of Hydraulic Fracturing Freshwater Demand



39. When did you first find out that fracking could cause earthquakes in Oklahoma under certain geological conditions? Did you publicly call on industry to alter their practices?

As I stated at my confirmation hearing the Oklahoma Corporation Commission is vested with the jurisdiction of regulating oil and gas activities, they have acted to address seismicity concerns in the state and I have worked with and supported the Commission and other state agencies as required by state law.

40. What percentage of injection wells in Oklahoma is monitored for pollution (in groundwater, deep and shallow)? In those that were monitored, what was the concentration of pollutants?

Wastewater disposal through underground injection is regulated by the State of Oklahoma through delegated powers from the EPA pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act and to the best of my knowledge the State appropriately follows all requirements under the law.

The "Hockey Stick Moment" is when a variable of interest hits an exponential point in its growth with respect to time. The most notable "Hockey Stick Moment" is the rising levels of atmospheric CO2, N2O, and CH4 resulting from anthropogenic forces. However, a moment closer to Oklahoma is the exponential increase in earthquake activity even the USGS has shown is a function of the disposal of nearly 20% of US fracking waste into Oklahoma and Kansas' Class II Injection wells.

41. Do you agree that this growth in quake activity is a function of excessive and irresponsible oil and gas waste generation and disposal and is worthy of more research and monitoring by the EPA?

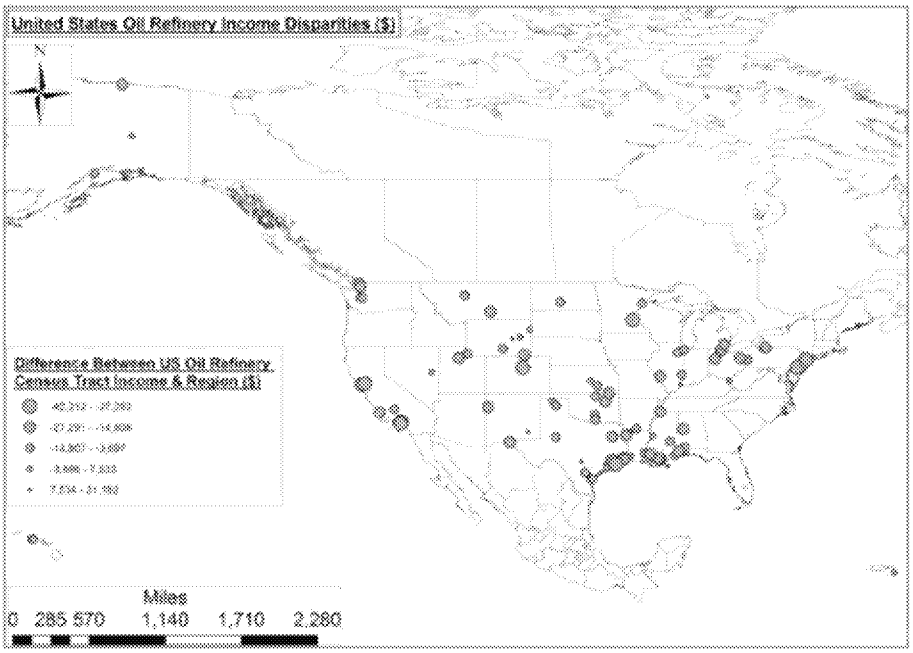
As previously mentioned, wastewater disposal through underground injection is regulated by the State of Oklahoma under delegated powers from EPA pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Underground injection is not unique to the oil and natural gas industries as EPA has regulations on six different classes of underground injections. Underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas activities has been conducted safely in a number of states for decades, and, in a previous EPW hearing, Senator Cardin complimented "the actions taken" in Oklahoma with regard to oil and gas wastewater disposal. He went so far as to say the State "provided a good model that should be used in other States," lauding Oklahoma's actions as an example of "the Federal Government working with the State to develop the right framework for dealing with natural gas extraction." The State of Oklahoma has acted on local seismicity concerns and, to the best of my knowledge, follows all applicable SDWA requirements in regulating class 2 injection wells within the state.

42.You at first belittled the idea that oil and gas operations could cause human induced seismicity in Oklahoma, so did Harold Hamm. Do you now believe that you were both wrong?

As new information becomes available on a number of issues it should always be evaluated and taken into consideration. The State of Oklahoma has taken actions to address seismicity concerns related to the oil and natural gas industry and I support the state taking action.

43. How would a Trump/Pruitt EPA address growing environmental and economic justice issues associated with existing oil refineries and associated unconventional oil and gas infrastructure proposals?

As I stated at my confirmation hearing I believe addressing environmental justice in poor and minority communities is an important role of the EPA Administrator. If confirmed I intend to enforce laws under EPA jurisdiction with uniformity regardless of which industry a potential violation of law comes from.



44.Would you support implementing a requirement to provide full, well specific, public disclosure of all information related to oil and gas development involving

hydraulic fracturing that informs understanding groundwater, surface water, public health and safety, and habitat potential impacts?

If confirmed I would review both EPA's legal authorities as well as the potential need for new requirements and regulations.

With regards to decommissioning a former nuclear power plant, a fair amount of confusion appears to exist in regulating non-radiological hazardous materials during active plant demolition. Most agencies, including the EPA, will defer to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for anything at a nuclear power plant site. However, the NRC does not regulate the non-radiological aspects of nuclear power plant operation--e.g., the NRC does not regulate chemical or oil spills that occur at a nuclear power plant site.

45.How active of a role should the EPA play during the hazardous material survey and active demolition phases of power plant decommissioning to assure that public health and the environment are not impacted by a site's prior use as a nuclear power plant?

In 2002, the EPA and the NRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding entitled "Consultation and Finality on Decommissioning and Decontamination of Contaminated Sites." The EPA's responsibilities with regard to the regulation of non-radiological hazardous materials are address in sections V.C.3, V.D.4, and VI. If confirmed, I will carry out EPA's responsibilities under the law.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies to consider the potential environmental impact of any industrial project while the agencies assess their regulatory authority specific projects. While the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) does conduct Environmental Assessments for nuclear power plant construction, operations, modifications and decommissioning activities, these assessments are frequently conducted after all other technical assessments for a nuclear power plant project have been evaluated; meaning that they are not an integral part of the NRC's regulatory decision-making process.

46.As Administrator, how will you encourage or require the NRC to more rigorously include NEPA requirements in its "technical" regulatory evaluations?

I am not familiar with how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission conducts its analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act. Under section 309 of

the Clean Air Act, EPA reviews and comments on the NEPA analyses of other agencies. If confirmed, I will ensure that EPA continues to carry out this statutory responsibility.

Changes in weather patterns, such as heavier precipitation events that increase run-off and flooding, are affecting lakes, rivers, and reservoirs nationwide. Water quality, quantity, and the integrity of our water infrastructure are at risk. Recent studies in the Northeast have found that degraded water quality on lakes can cost lakeside communities millions of dollars in losses from both tourism and taxable income due to reduced property values.

47.How will the EPA support water resource management programs to address these issues?

If confirmed, I will continue to implement the water quality protection authorities granted to EPA by Congress. These include regulatory and financial and technical assistance programs. The Clean Water Act expressly leaves the allocation of water quantity to states. I further note that Congress has not given EPA water resources management authorities. Instead, such programs are carried out by the Corps of Engineers and, in the 17 Western states, the Bureau of Reclamation.

48.How would you address EPA's permitting backlog, e.g. the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (point source water dischargers) program?

Making sure permits are current is one of core functions under the statutory responsibilities given to EPA and in turn carried out by authorized states. However, in recent years states have been asked to shift their focus and resources to other activities. If confirmed, I would focus on ensuring EPA is able to carry out its core functions under our environmental.

Federal regulations such as the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act set national standards to protect our natural resources and safeguard public health. In 2010 you campaigned against a "one-size-fits-all strategy" towards environmental protection.

49.What did you mean by that and how would you, as EPA Administrator, ensure that all Americans are adequately protected against poisonous water and air regardless of where they happen to live?

As I said in my testimony before the committee, I support national standards and neighborhood solutions. That means there may be one standard that applies nationally, but not only one way to achieve that standard. If confirmed, I will bring this philosophy to my role as EPA Administrator.

50. Do you support and stand behind the premise of the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts that every American has the right to clean water and air?

I fully support the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act.

In a court filing opposing the Waters of the United States you wrote "This regulation usurps the state's authority over its land and water use, and triggers numerous and costly obligations under the [Clean Water] Act for the state and its citizens."

51. Without national regulations how would you guarantee the quality of water that flows across state boundaries?

Regulation of rivers and streams that form the boundaries of states or flows from one state to another is not an issue raised by states in the WOTUS litigation.

52. Do you believe that the only people with an interest in water are those within a state and not downstream neighbors?

No.

53. Every national science organization, not to mention the Pentagon, lists climate change as a critical threat to our planet, our economy, and our national health. The Pentagon considers Climate Change a "Threat Multiplier" and a "Growing Security Threat." Do you agree with the Pentagon and our National Security advisors regarding the severity of this crisis?

I have no reason to disagree with the statements from the listed security experts, although I have not made any attempt to independently verify their accuracy.

54. Please describe your plan, process, or other information that the EPA may be able to provide to the Pentagon to mitigate or mollify the threats our military describes.

Interagency cooperation is very important. I believe the development of military readiness and response plans are best left to our military and national security experts. If confirmed, I will provide technical expertise to other agencies as appropriate.

55. Will you be promoting greater use of carbon-based fossil fuels?

I do not believe it is the mission of the EPA to promote one type of energy source over another. If confirmed as Administrator, I will fairly and equitably enforce the laws within the framework established by Congress and not pick winners and losers.

56. Do you think the EPA has any role in helping our nation decrease or end the consumption of carbon fuels?

The mission of EPA is to set standards that protect the environment and the health and welfare of our citizens. While setting national energy policies are not within the statutorily ascribed purview of the agency, EPA regulatory actions often impact the ability of those charged with generating our nation's energy to do their job. If confirmed, I will listen to all impacted stakeholders when developing EPA actions. I will also coordinate with impacted agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to ensure EPA's actions do not undermine their equally important missions and statutory objectives.

57. Do you see any reason for reducing carbon emissions that come from using fossil fuels like oil, coal, and natural gas?

I believe the Administrator has an important role when it comes to the regulation of carbon dioxide. If confirmed, I will fulfill the duties of the Administrator consistent with Massachusetts v. EPA and the agency's Endangerment Finding on Greenhouse Gases respective of the relative statutory framework established by Congress.

58. What do you think are the most reliable sources for scientific news and information?

If confirmed as EPA Administrator, I will adhere to the applicable statutory authorities to fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment and will base my decisions on sound science, including advice provided by agency experts and advisory personnel.

59. Do you plan to request regular briefings from government science and/or intelligence sources? If so, how often? If not, why?

If confirmed, I will make decisions based on sound science reflective of diverse, objective and unbiased views conducted in a transparent manner reliant on public engagement and consistent with the framework established by Congress.

60. Do you intend to have meetings with or receive regular briefings from private industrial sources? If so, how often? If not, why?

If confirmed, I intend to operate the agency consistent with the statutory framework established by Congress and follow associated processes, which require extensive outreach with the public and regulated community.

The President-Elect has positioned himself as a champion of coal miners. You may be aware of the crisis facing the nation's largest multi-employer health and pension plans serving coal miner retirees, administered by the UMWA. The pension plan is facing insolvency within 10 years and, more immediately, over 20,000 retired coal miners and their dependents are facing an imminent loss of health care coverage. Senator Manchin e developed a bi-partisan legislative response to this crisis called the Miners Protection Act that I co-sponsored. It was marked up and passed by the Senate Finance Committee last September on an 18-8 vote. We were expecting the Senate and House Republican leadership to work with us to include the MPA in the Continuing Resolution package that we deliberated on during the lame duck session. We also asked the President-Elect to express his support for this legislation given his abundant pro-coal miner rhetoric during the Presidential campaign. Senate Democrats sent him a letter imploring him to publicly express his support. We got no response. The outcome was a Continuing Resolution that included nothing more than a 4 month extension of health benefits for the retirees who now face a termination of benefits in April instead of this month.

61.How will you work with the President-elect and the rest of his cabinet to work with Congress to pass the MPA and fulfill the nation's commitment to the coal miners whose work powered this country for generations?

I am not familiar with the proposed legislation referenced in the question or EPA's authorities and responsibilities for pension and health care plans for miners.

As you may know, each federal agency, including EPA, has an important role in enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin by recipients of federal funds. This is an accountability law — before the law was passed, federal funds were subsidizing agencies and organizations, from schools to hospitals to other agencies of government that discriminated. The case that led to the passage of Title VI was *Simkins v. Moses Cone Memorial Hospital,* a 1963 case in which a circuit court finally, 9 years after *Brown v. Board,* struck down a provision of federal law that allowed federally subsidized hospitals to have separate wings for "whites" and "colored" people under a "separate but equal" provision of a federal law called the Hill Burton Act.

62.Are you familiar with Title VI?

Yes.

63.Are you familiar with the Moses Cone Memorial Hospital case?

Yes.

64. If confirmed, wiill you commit to enforcing Title VI and the regulations promulgated by EPA to enforce Title VI?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress that impose duties or grant authority to me as Administrator, including the Civil Rights Act.

Title VI (at 42 USC 2000d-1) specifically empowers "each federal department and agency" that distributes federal funds to effectuate Title VI and then authorizes each agency to issue rules, regulations and orders to implement the law. Thus, the authority and responsibility to enforce Title VI and to ensure that recipients of

federal funds are not discriminating rests with each federal agency, including EPA. As you may know, federal enforcement is all the more important because affected communities can't go to court to enforce claims unless they can prove intentional discrimination under a case that arose out of Alabama — *Alexander v. Sandoval*, 532 U.S. 275 (2001).

65.Are you familiar with the text of Title VI, 42 USC 2000d, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin?

Yes.

66.What is your vision for Title VI enforcement at EPA? What reforms need to be made? What concrete steps do you envision to strengthen civil rights enforcement at EPA?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute Title VI. I will expect my staff to evaluate any areas that might need reform, and I will take appropriate actions based on the recommendations made to me.

67.Are you familiar with the Supreme Court decision in *Alexander v. Sandoval* (2001)?

Yes.

68.To your knowledge, does the text of the law define or limit the meaning of "discrimination"?

I cannot answer this question without additional context as to what text of what law you refer to.

69.Are you familiar with regulations promulgated by EPA to implement this language, found at 40 CFR Part 7?

I cannot answer this question without additional context as to what you are referring to when you say "this language."

70.In your opinion, does this language further define what is meant by "discrimination"?

I cannot answer this question without additional context as to what you are referring to when you say "this language."

71. In fact, the regulations prohibit actions with an unjustified disparate impact. Do you agree?

The regulations speak for themselves.

72. Are you aware of criticism that EPA has historically done a "poor" job of enforcing Title VI and its regulations?

I am not.

73. If so, do you agree or disagree with criticisms that EPA has historically done a "poor" job of enforcing Title VI and its regulations?

Because I have not heard those criticisms, I cannot say whether I disagree or not.

74. Are you familiar with the Deloitte Report (2011), see https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/723416/epa-ocr-audit.pdf, which documented problems with EPA's enforcement of Title VI? If so, what is your past experience with the Deloitte Report?

I am not familiar with the report you reference.

75. Were you aware that the Deloitte Report made the following findings:

- The Office has not adequately adjudicated Title VI complaints – those addressing allegations of discrimination against communities of citizens affected to environmental rules promulgated by the EPA.
- OCR has not completed compliance checks of EPA grantees, in a timely or effective manner, to ensure that grantees are not engaging in discrimination in their work.

I am not familiar with the report you reference.

76. If so, what is your past experience with the findings?

I am not familiar with the findings.

77. In your opinion, what has the EPA already done to address these issues?

I do not know what EPA has or has not done to address any such issues.

78. Do you know whether these steps have been effective?

Because I am not aware of the steps taken--if any--I cannot judge their effectiveness.

79. In your opinion, what more could the EPA do to address these issues?

It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge an issue that may come before me for decision if I am confirmed as Administrator. If the issue comes before me, I will ensure that the issue is fully and fairly considered, as part of a transparent process that seeks input from all stakeholders.

80. If confirmed, will you commit to taking action to address these issues?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress and imposing upon EPA duties or powers.

81. Do you believe that recipients of federal funds — across this whole country — are making any decisions that are discriminatory?

I do not doubt that some recipients of federal funding engage in behaviors that violate federal anti-discrimination laws.

82. Under Title VI and its regulations, should recipients of federal funds review whether a decision has a disproportionate adverse impact to ensure that it is in compliance with civil rights law?

Recipients of federal funds should take all actions required by law to ensure that they are in compliance with federal civil rights laws.

83. Do you have plans for pre-award compliance reviews? When would any such plans go into effect? And post-award compliance reviews? What would such reviews involve?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will ensure that federal funds are awarded in compliance with federal law.

84. What is your understanding of the obligations of recipients under Title VI and EPA implementing regulations? Do you think those obligations are sufficient?

The obligations of recipients of federal funds are defined by the statutes and regulations to which you refer. Those statutes and regulations speak for themselves.

Energy burdens above six percent of a household's income are typically considered unaffordable, but low income households spend an average of 15 to 20 percent of their income on energy bills. Low income families are also more likely to live in older, inefficient housing. The Clean Power Plan provides incentives to states to invest in energy efficiency improvements in low income communities.

85.Are you concerned about the lack of access to energy efficient, affordable housing for low income families?

I am unfamiliar with EPA's role and statutory authorities as they relate to affordable housing. I am concerned about the impact regulations can have on the cost of energy for consumers.

86.As EPA Administrator, how would you help low income working families reduce their energy burdens and access energy-efficient affordable housing?

I am unfamiliar with EPA's role and statutory authorities as they relate to affordable housing.

Low-income rural and urban communities and people of color are disproportionately live near, are exposed to, and die from environmental risks/hazards. As of February 27, 2014, there were 1322 Superfund sites on the National Priorities List in the United States. Fifty-three additional sites have been proposed for entry on the list. Communities of color breathe in nearly 40 percent more polluted air than whites. Sixty-eight percent of African-Americans live within thirty miles of a coal-fired power plant, the zone of maximum exposure to pollutants that cause an array of ailments, from heart disease to birth defects. Half of all U.S. Latinos live in the country's most polluted cities. Hispanic children are twice as likely as non-Hispanic white children to die from asthma while, from 2012-2014, African American children had a death rate ten times that of non-Hispanic white children. African-American children are three times as likely to suffer an asthma attack.

87.As EPA Administrator, how would you ensure that vulnerable low-income communities and communities of color are not overburdened by the harmful impacts of pollution?

If confirmed, I expect to make the cleanup of contaminated land one of my priorities. I believe the nation's environmental laws apply to all Americans.

88.Would you say there is anything you will do, if confirmed, to help these Americans? Will you push to reduce smog and particulate matter that causes more asthma attacks and other lung problems? Or is that a matter for the states and not the EPA?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure human health is protected by implementing Clean Air Act provisions, such as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for criteria pollutants, including for ground-level ozone and particulate matter, which prioritize protection of human health and welfare. I will also work to ensure all Americans are treated equally under the law in furtherance of EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

EPA has adopted many cost-effective safeguards in the past eight years that would significantly reduce the pollution that contributes to asthma attacks in children -- many of which you challenged as Attorney General of Oklahoma.

89.Can you explain how you will protect the interests of these and other children that suffer from asthma?

As I stated in my testimony to the committee, all legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in an the capacity of an advocate. If confirmed as Administrator, I will consider all matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

90.Will you commit to working to further reduce pollution, including pollution that disproportionately burdens Hispanic and Environmental Justice communities?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure all Americans are treated equally under the law in furtherance of EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

91.Do you think the EPA has done enough to ensure that low-income communities near brownfields receive the same amount of attention as high-

income communities? Will you give priority to the safety and health of our children and future generations over short-term current economic gains of few?

I do not know what EPA has or has not done on this issue. If confirmed as Administrator, I will work to ensure the brownfields program is operated in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

92.Municipal electric utilities depend on the municipal bond tax-exempt status. For Vermont Municipal electric utilities, this is particularly true with regard to utility investments. Do you support tax-exempt bonding as one important tools to improve utility infrastructure (electric, water, wastewater, etc)?

As Attorney General for Oklahoma, I have not studied the issues related to tax-exempt bonds for utility infrastructure. I am not familiar with EPA's role and legal authorities as they relate to municipal tax-exempt bonds.

Your state of Texas is part of a market (ERCOT) that is not Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdictional. This means that Texas does not comply with the same requirements as electric utilities in Vermont and other ISO regions face. ERCOT seems to have embraced wind and other renewable sources.

93.What are the strengths of the ERCOT approach?

I am Attorney General for Oklahoma, not Texas, and do not have an opinion on the Texas electric grid.

94.How would you contrast those with the strengths and weaknesses of the New England ISO?

I am not familiar with the electric grid in New England.

"Green infrastructure" (forests, wetlands, natural floodplains, etc.) can play a critical role in reducing impacts of flooding from extreme weather events like Tropical Storm Irene, and in helping to meet essential water quality requirements/improvements such as the EPA-approved Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan. Also, green infrastructure is often much more cost effective than updating or investing in new traditional "gray infrastructure." EPA has played an important role in providing training, technical and financial assistance related to capitalizing green infrastructure.

95.What do you see as EPA's role going forward related to green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is a good example of a neighborhood solution that can achieve compliance with national standards. I believe EPA should be supportive of such efforts. If confirmed, I will work to break down barriers within EPA to the use of green infrastructure.

In your own state of Oklahoma, wastewater disposal from fracking and drilling has induced thousands of earthquakes, threatening lives and destroying property. Joe and Mary Reneau suffered through a 5.7 magnitude quake (Nov. 6, 2011) near Prague, Oklahoma – their chimney fell into the living room, right on top of a favorite spot of Mary's to sit. Luckily for them, Mary wasn't sitting there at the time, they had earthquake insurance, and they had $200,000 of repairs done on their house. Joe jokes that he won the earthquake lottery. Jerry and John Loveland weren't so lucky, they had $50,000 worth of damage done on their house, no insurance, and no way to pay for the damage. Oklahoma is an oil and gas state. Joe Reneau said he wouldn't bring any claims against the oil company, because if he did, he would be "run out of town." Oklahoma regulators have done next to nothing to help those harmed by oil industry induced quakes or prevent more destruction.

96.As EPA administrator, what will you do to help the Amos family, John and Catherine Fenton, or all those in Oklahoma threatened by oil industry induced earthquakes?

As I have previously stated, underground injection is regulated by the State of Oklahoma under delegated authority from EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The State has taken action to address seismicity concerns and, if I am confirmed, I will continue working with States and within EPA's legal authorities to address public health and environmental concerns.

In September 2016, the EPA recommended a moratorium on the underground injection of fracking wastewater in certain earthquake-prone parts of Oklahoma because regulations had not successfully addressed the problem.

97.Will you uphold the EPA's recommendation—yes or no?

The State of Oklahoma has worked collaboratively with the EPA to address seismicity concerns and state regulators have shut down dozens of

underground injection wells and, if confirmed, I will continue this cooperative approach to addressing such future issues as they might arise.

98. Specifically, EPA's recommendation arose out of the agency learning that the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, the body overseeing the underground injection control program in a primacy agreement with the EPA, has illegally permitted restricted wells to return to normal operations. While EPA cannot order Oklahoma to impose a moratorium, it can revoke the state's authority and take over regulation of the wells itself. As EPA Administrator, will you regulate these wells in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and in addressing the seismic catastrophe occurring in your state—yes or no?

If confirmed as EPA Administrator I will review relevant information, including EPA's legal authorities, to ensure drinking water protections in Oklahoma and across the nation.

99.Do you think local communities have the right to protect themselves from pollution and other threats to public health?

Yes, if authorized under the law and not preempted or displaced by state or federal law.

100.Will you, as EPA Administrator, support these state and local regulations by not intervening or challenging them—yes or no?

I believe in cooperative federalism and I will work with States and local communities to protect citizens consistent with our nations laws.

101. How do you reconcile challenging these rules with your view of respecting and giving deference to state and local environmental regulation?

It is not clear to me what rules are being referred to in this question, however, I believe that environmental and public health protections are the strongest when there is collaboration across all levels of government consistent with applicable laws.

The FracTracker Alliance has shown that 11% of organic farms are within 1/2 mile of oil and gas development, and 100% of farms within the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California are within 8 miles of oil and gas operations (59,840 wells),

and that produced water is being used to irrigate crops (and also organic crops). California feeds 50% of the country.

102. What is your response to the US maintaining food independence and food safety when the majority of its food sheds are threatened by oil and gas contamination?

I have seen no evidence or information that proximity to oil and natural gas development has contaminated or threatened to contaminate our nation's food safety. The State of California would be better able to address their laws and regulations with regards to the location of oil and gas development in their State as well as their irrigation policies.

103. Why is energy independence more important than food independence?

I have not made any statements ranking the importance of these two issues critical to our nation's health and welfare.

104. We have the opportunity to be both energy independent and food independent without poisoning people and the planet. Why should the US be dependent on other countries to supply its food, but not be dependent on other countries to supply its energy?

I support both the goals of domestic energy independence as well as protecting our domestic food supply and working collaboratively with our nation's farmers and ranchers.

105. From your Great Plains perspective how do you feel the advent of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) will affect the growing concerns about food security/safety relative to energy infrastructure?

Oklahoma, as a rural state, has long successfully balanced safe energy production as well as farming and ranching.

106. How can the public trust the oil and gas industry when it is exempt from so many environmental regulations?

Any statutory exemptions come from Congress and if confirmed I will uphold the laws as directed by the Constitution.

107. How can rural communities trust oil and gas operators when rural gas gathering lines are exempt from federal pipeline safety regulations (because of the exemption, states also cannot regulate rural gas gathering lines, and therefore because they are not regulated the operators do not have an obligation to report on incremental failures along the pipelines, they are only required to report if there is a need for an evacuation).

The State of Oklahoma has worked well with both rural communities and the domestic energy industry (including alternative energy producers as well as conventional) and, if confirmed, I will continue working to foster safe domestic energy development and maintain trust with our nation's communities both rural and urban.

The conventional food supply is sufficiently burdened by a toxic load from pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and genetic modification. It doesn't need yet another toxic burden.

108. How can consumers trust the food in restaurants and grocery stores when it may be grown near oil and gas operations?

If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by staff to before taking action and would work to ensure EPA followed all applicable legal requirements and made decisions based on sound science.

109. How can parents trust the food that is being served to their kids in school cafeterias?

If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by staff to assess what role, if any, EPA plays concerning the safety of food served in school cafeterias.

Many of our environmental laws were designed to permit regulation and enforcement by the states so long as state programs meet minimum federal standards established by EPA. Since state laws, however, do not always have general effect or application on Indian lands, Congress has amended several of our environmental statutes to permit tribes themselves to assume primacy of enforcement.

110. Do you intend to encourage tribes to develop their own enforcement regimes under approved programs, much as the states do? Or do you expect EPA itself to

provide direct regulation and enforcement of federal environmental laws on Indian lands throughout the country?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would ensure that Indian lands were subject to adequate environmental regulation, whether that be through tribes utilizing regulatory powers as contemplated by Congress, or through direct regulation by the EPA.

Much of the nation's and the world's attention has been focused in recent months on the Dakota Access Pipeline, the construction of which crosses multiple states. Many pipelines on Indian lands are located entirely within a single state, however. Here EPA is not always the primary regulator, and state laws do not always apply. The health and environmental consequences of pipeline failures, however, can be enormous.

111. Will you commit to work with this Committee and other agencies to address the environmental and public health and safety issues associated with the operation of pipelines on Indian lands, including purely intrastate pipeline facilities?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would faithfully execute any obligations imposed on EPA by Congress to ensure the environmental soundness of pipelines on Indian lands.

Many of the nation's Superfund sites are on Indian lands. We are still dealing with clean-up issues from our uranium industry's legacy from the 1940s and 1950s. The nation's largest open pit uranium mine--Jackpile Mine on Laguna--was only recently added to the Superfund list. The largest Superfund site in the country in your own state is largely on Indian lands: Tar Creek on Quapaw. We have not fully addressed abandoned uranium mill tailings piles and the failure of the Church Rock Dam that dumped irradiated mill tailings into Navajo lands and waters. More recently the failure of the dam below the Gold King Mine in Colorado turned the San Juan River on the Navajo Reservation red all the way to Utah. Today, and nearly every day, fugitive coal dust emissions from trains silt over spawning grounds of treaty-protected fisheries. Oceangoing dumping threatens subsistence lifeways throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. Newer and more virulent strains of black lung disease are overwhelming public health facilities in mining communities. These are just a few examples of major environmental issues that impact disproportionately the poor and the underrepresented elements of our society, including Indian communities and tribal lands.

112. Can you assure us that under your leadership the EPA will address issues of environmental justice in Native American communities and offer a voice to those most affected by the environmental consequences of industrialization?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all environmental laws enacted by Congress, and will do so in all communities, including Native American communities.

These questions extend to resources protected by treaties such as water rights and compacts, forestry, hunting and trapping, fishing, etc. Some treaties have language that doesn't apply any longer and needs to be updated. Other language needs updating to reflect cultural realities. For example, "hunting" rights do not include "trapping rights" in the letter of the treaty unless trapping is explicitly mentioned, even though the tribes did not differentiate between both.

113. Please describe the relationship between the federal government and American Indian Tribes as it relates to sovereignty the trust responsibility.

Pursuant to federal law, the federal government has a trust responsibility to American Indian Tribes.

114. What obligations do federal agencies have to formally consult with American Indian tribes? What about independent federal agencies?

The obligations of federal agencies--independent or otherwise--to formally consult with American Indian tribes are defined by federal law. If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress requiring or authorizing formal consultation with American Indian tribes.

115. What procedures should the EPA follow regarding permitting of infrastructure projects that could potentially impact American Indian tribes and their citizens?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress requiring that procedures be followed with regard to infrastructure projects that could potentially impact American Indian tribes and their citizens

116. How do you interpret the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially as it relates to obligations of the federal government?

The federal government's obligations with respect to Indian tribes is defined by federal law.

117. Do you believe federal funding should be block granted to states to then disburse to tribes? Alternatively, should tribes receive their full and fair allocation of federal funding without being beholden to cumbersome state bureaucracy?

Federal funding should be disbursed to States and tribes in the manner directed by Congress.

118. What is the federal government's role in permitting extraction of mineral resources on federal Indian lands?

As trustee of federal Indian lands, the federal government's role is to act in the best interest of the tribes with regard to permitting extracting of mineral resources on those lands.

119. How will you promote economic development within Indian country?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress directing or authorizing me to promote economic development within Indian country.

120. How will you ensure the Bureau of Indian Education provides quality education to American Indian students?

The Bureau of Indian Education is overseen by the Department of the Interior, not EPA.

121. What is the role of the federal government to promote renewable energy development on American Indian lands?

The federal government's role in promoting renewable energy development on American Indian lands is determined by Congress. If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress imposing upon EPA duties relating to promoting renewable energy development on American Indian lands.

122. What is the role of inter-agency cooperation to work across agencies on American Indian issues?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress imposing upon EPA duties relating to American Indian issues, and if faithful execution of those laws requires cooperation with other federal agencies, I will ensure that such cooperation occurs.

123. Will you work with the White House Inter-Agency Working Group on American Indian issues?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress requiring or authorizing me to work with the White House Inter-Agency Working Group on American Indian issues.

Federal Indian law has long recognized that tribes maintain authority over Indian country to the exclusion of states. Oklahoma has 38 federally recognized Indian tribes and those tribes exert jurisdiction over their lands throughout the state. But as Oklahoma Attorney General, your office has never filed a brief in support of tribal jurisdiction. Instead, your office filed briefs in ODEQ v. EPA, the Dollar General case, and several other cases OPPOSING tribal jurisdiction.

124. How can you hope to serve as a protector of tribal lands when you have, over and over again, advocated to deny tribal governments the right to regulate and protect their OWN resources?

As Oklahoma Attorney General, my duty was to ensure that the State of Oklahoma's jurisdiction was fully realized, and sometimes took legal actions in pursuit of that duty. If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress directing or authorizing me serve as a protector of tribal lands.

Indian lands outside reservation boundaries. The EPA has, since at least 1984, recognized the federal government's trust responsibility, which is built upon the longstanding historical and legal relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes. The EPA has also acknowledged that treaties, as part of the supreme law of the land, have the same legal force as federal statutes and must be considered when making agency decisions.

125. How will you work to protect tribal treaty lands and resources that lie outside of reservation boundaries, and how will you help expand tribal authority over those lands and resources?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress directing or authorizing me to regulate tribal treaty lands and resources and directing or authorizing me to seek to expand tribal authority over those lands and resources.

Tribal communities, especially those in Alaska, have borne the brunt of the impacts of climate change. Several Native Alaskan villages have seen their entire way of life vanish as their homes have begun to erode away beneath their feet due to rising sea levels. Others have seen vital food supplies contaminated and sacred species of fish devastated by climate change.

126. How do you plan to protect native peoples from the effects of climate change?

If confirmed as EPA Administrator, I will adhere to the applicable statutory authorities to fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment for all of our nation's citizens.

127.There are established consultation processes set up for Indian Nations. Will you have "meaningful" talks with them? Will your Agency be transparent in all dealings with Tribal Nations? Will you be honest and fair?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all laws enacted by Congress requiring consultation processes for Indian tribes. I will engage all who have business before the EPA--including Indian tribes--in meaningful, transparent, honest, and fair processes.

Senator Sullivan:

1. Alaska's seafood industry is the nation's largest and is one of major employer's in the Alaska economy. In fact, over 60 percent of the nation's commercially harvested fishery resources are caught and processed in Alaska. Alaska's waters remain some of the cleanest and most pristine in the nation. Most of the seafood processors who process these great resources are located in remote areas of Alaska. Each of those processors hold Clean Water Act discharge permits for the small amounts of seafood waste produced during procession operations.

EPA has delegated the management of those discharge permits to the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation as directed by the CWA. In spite of that delegation, EPA remains actively involved in deciding issues that impact the ability of the state agency to accomplish its mission. For example, the EPA is currently considering a rule change that would dramatically impact the operation of seafood processing plants in those remote areas. That change could result in some of those operations having to cease processing because they cannot comply with this rule change. The current rule has been in place for almost 35 years and there is no water quality problem in the locations to justify such a rule change.

Will you commit to reviewing this proposal and confer with the Alaska Congressional Delegation prior to making any change to the current status?

If confirmed, I will review this proposal and confer with the Alaska Congressional Delegation prior to changing the Clean Water Act regulations currently applicable to seafood processors.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has recently issued a draft Clean Water Act APDES permit to allow seafood processors to continue discharging small amounts of waste pursuant to the Clean Water Act. Unfortunately, EPA is objecting to some of the permit conditions. Again, they are doing so with no known water quality issues or public concern about those conditions. Rather, it appears as though the EPA does not approve of the manner in which our state agency is pursuing its obligations. As a former State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner, I have great faith in the ability of state employees to make solid permitting decisions that will protect the state's environment while allowing operations and employment to continue that are compliant with the Clean Water Act.

2. Will you commit to reviewing these EPA actions and allow the state to issue its permit?

Yes, if confirmed, I will review EPA's actions as they relate to Alaska seafood processing permits. As I stated in my testimony, I support national standards and neighborhood solutions.

3. CERCLA Financial Assurance Requirements under Section 108(b):

On December 1, 2016 the Environmental Protection Agency issued a proposed rule under Section 108(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act that would require hard rock mines to obtain additional and duplicate financial assurance requirements for copper, gold, iron, zinc and other hard rock mines. If this proposed rule is finalized, the financial assurance requirements would likely result in significant redundant costs for mining corporations. EPA has indicated that these regulations will expand to the oil and gas sector next. If confirmed would you work to ensure that any new rules or regulations are not duplicative of rules imposed by other federal agencies or states?

I am not familiar with the details of this rulemaking action and would not want to prejudge the issue prior to being confirmed as Administrator. However, if confirmed I will work to ensure EPA complies with all applicable legal requirements, including those related to analyzing impacts on small businesses, as part of this or any other rulemaking.

4. Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act:

Do you believe that EPA's use of a preemptive veto of a project under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act may create the opportunity for overreach by the agency and could undermine administrative process and the rule of law?

As I stated in my testimony, I believe that it is very important that federal agencies follow the appropriate legal process when taking any actions. Any preemptive action before the completion of a statutorily mandated process could undermine both the administrative process and the rule of law.

Senator Whitehouse:

1. Estuaries are important coastal habitats the sustain unique wildlife and plant species, serve as a nurseries for commercially important fish, buffer coastal communities from coastal storms, and filter water as it flows into the ocean. The EPA manages a network of 28 estuaries of national significance around the country. Last Congress, the National Estuary Program (NEP) was reauthorized through 2021 (Public Law No.114-162) in a bipartisan effort and charged with providing grants to support projects that address a number of problems facing estuarine and coastal environments, including seagrass habitat loss, harmful algal blooms, invasive species, and sea level rise. Coming from a non-coastal state, please describe in detail how you will acquaint yourself with 1) the NEP, and 2) coastal issues the NEP helps address.

If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by EPA staff on the relevant statutory authority and any EPA programs established pursuant to this authority.

2. Each NEP must institute a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) to guide management and conservation decisions at the NEP. The effects of climate change on estuaries (i.e., saltwater inundation, increased rainfall-driven runoff, warming waters) are included in these CCMPs. Would you direct the NEPs to disregard the consequences of climate change in the CCMPs and other decision-making reports and tools?

If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by EPA staff on the relevant statutory authority and any EPA programs established pursuant to this authority. If confirmed, I will follow all as enacted by Congress.

3. The Climate Ready Estuaries program coordinates with the NEP to educate managers on how to assess the effects of climate change on U.S. estuaries. It also provides recommendations and toolkits to help design climate change adaptation and risk identification capabilities. Will you direct the Climate Ready Estuaries program to remove any materials, cancel any webinars or presentations, or stop its coordinated work on climate change with the NEPs?

I am not familiar with the details of the specific program referenced in your question. If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by EPA staff on the relevant statutory authority and any EPA programs established pursuant to this authority.

4. Marine debris is a growing problem around the world, with plastic debris being the most troublesome component due to its pervasiveness and persistence in the marine environment. The EPA is currently a co-chair of the federal Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee. Under your direction, will the EPA to maintain a leadership role on the committee? How will you continue EPA's

coordinated work with NOAA and other agencies to prevent marine debris, conduct education outreach, and support research efforts?

I am not familiar with the details of the specific program referenced in your question. If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by EPA staff on the relevant statutory authority to better understand EPA's role compared to those of other federal agencies on this issue.

5. EPA completed a State of the Science White Paper in December entitled "A Summary of Literature on the Chemical Toxicity of Plastics Pollution to Aquatic Life and Aquatic-Dependent Wildlife." The white paper identified four key areas where additional research is needed: 1) "the fate of chemicals both sorbed to and in plastics under differing environment conditions and within an organism after ingestion;" 2) "the relative role plastics play in chemical contaminant transfer to the tissues of organisms compared to other exposure pathways (aqueous dermal exposure and ingestion from natural prey);" 3) "the relative impacts of physical and chemical effects of ingested plastic particles on a wide range of organisms;" and 4) "whether the relatively high surface area of nanoplastics compared to microplastics and their potential to permeate membranes with increased retention time may increase their toxicological risk to organisms." What is EPA's role and responsibility in finding answers to these research questions?

I am not familiar with the report referenced in this question. If confirmed as Administrator, I would expect to be brief by staff to learn more about EPA's authorities and responsibilities before taking any actions referenced in the question.

6. Do you accept the science of ocean acidification that has directly connected the increase in human-caused carbon dioxide emissions with decreases in ocean pH?

First, I would note that the oceans are alkaline and are projected to remain so. Second, it is my understanding that the degree of alkalinity in the ocean is highly variable and therefore it is difficult to attribute that variability to any single cause.

7. Do you accept that the oceans are currently acidifying at a rate unprecedented in tens of millions of years?

First, I would note that the oceans are alkaline and are projected to remain so. Second, it is my understanding that the degree of alkalinity in the ocean is highly variable and therefore it is difficult to attribute that variability to any single cause. I am unaware of tens of millions of years of data on the pH of oceans.

8. Do you accept ocean acidification's predicted toll on coral reefs worldwide, important habitats for recreation, tourism, and commercial fishing?

I am aware that there is a relationship between the alkalinity of water and the calcification process that grows shells and reefs and that a decrease in alkalinity can impair that process.

9. What is the EPA's role in helping states and coastal communities mitigate or adapt to the challenges projected for the shellfish industries or the thousands of individuals that make their living off of this billion-dollar resource?

If confirmed, I will implement the laws that EPA is charged to administer. Under section 304 of the CWA EPA establishes water quality criteria to protect aquatic life, including shellfish. Certain EPA programs also include authorities that can support projects that may benefit the shellfish industry, including the National Estuary Program under section 320 of the CWA, the Long Island Sound programs under section 119 of the CWA, and the Chesapeake Bay program under section 117 of the CWA. Finally, section 319 of the CWA can support programs and projects to reduce runoff that may impact oyster beds.

10. What do you understand to be the consequences of sea level rise, increased storm surge, and warming ocean waters on coastal communities and estuaries?

If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by staff on the impact sea level rise, storm surge, and warming ocean waters on consequences on coastal communities and estuaries.

11. Both states and some Members of Congress have for years criticized EPA for "one-size-fits-all approaches" and failing to give adequate flexibility to states. Yet in challenging EPA's Clean Power Plan, you attacked EPA for just that – giving states and regions too much latitude in administering the Clean Air Act. Wouldn't that take the Agency in the wrong direction?

I, along with the Supreme Court, which issued a stay against the Clean Power Plan in February 2016, believe the EPA exceeded the bounds of authority established by Congress in the Clean Air Act. In particular, the Rule attempted to supplant decisions traditionally preserved for the states, including the establishment of intrastate energy policies, for agency mandated alternatives that would have increased the price of electricity for local citizens and reduced reliability. The notion of flexibility in the Clean Power Plan was conceptual at best. If confirmed, I will work to achieve the objectives of EPA-administered laws consistent with the process and framework established by Congress abiding by the bedrock principle of cooperative federalism, which relies on meaningful collaboration between the EPA and the states to achieve important environmental objectives.

12.According to the EPA, it has been estimated that the Clean Air Act has a history of reducing air pollution, while creating jobs. Since 1970 aggregate emissions of common air pollutants dropped 72 percent, while the U.S. gross domestic product grew 219 percent. Total private sector jobs increased by 101 percent over the same period. In 2020, EPA estimates that the standards will create the equivalent of over 104,000 new jobs including 17,000 new jobs building renewable energy facilities and over 78,000 jobs in improving demand-side energy efficiency. Do you agree that regulations under the Clean Air Act since 1970 have grown the economy? If not, can you provide your analysis, materials used, and people you solicited to come to this conclusion?

The success of the Clean Air Act is a direct result of the important partnership between the EPA and the states in developing and implementing its key programs. State regulators best understand the needs and uniqueness of local environmental challenges while the EPA is well positioned to set and adjust environmental safeguards that continue to improve the nation's air, land and water and protect public welfare. If confirmed as Administrator, I will adhere to the clear directives and process set out by Congress so that the agency can once again focus on fulfilling its core mission.

13.In 2014, four Republican former EPA Administrators – Bill Reilly, Bill Ruckelshaus, Lee Thomas, Governor Christine Todd Whitman – testified before EPW that climate change is real, EPA regulations do not end up costing as much as industry initially estimates, and EPA has clear authority under the Clean Air Act to curb carbon pollution. In a 2015 interview with Climate Progress, Governor Whitman said: "The idea the EPA is a job killer is false" and with regard to the Clean Power Plan "what EPA did was to allow as much flexibility as frankly I've ever seen them be able to create in a regulation."
Do you think that the former Administrators are correct in their assessment that regulations do not cost as much as industry initially estimates? If not, can you explain why not?

I am not sure what specific regulations the former EPA Administrators were referring to and accordingly lack sufficient information to answer the specific question. Generally speaking, if confirmed, I will work to ensure that EPA regulatory actions accurately account for the costs and benefits across all impacted stakeholders.

14.Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage is a bipartisan policy area that I am working on with my Republican colleagues. Senator Graham and I visited the world's first Carbon Capture project in Canada that has been operational since 2014. In 2016, SaskPower successfully captured and injected 800,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide and the facility has operated nearly 85 percent of the time. Recently, Petra Nova in Texas became the first United States first post-

combustion carbon capture project to begin operation. SaskPower and Petra Nova are listed in the Clean Power Plan as viable options for helping states reach their Clean Power Plan targets. Do you believe that CCUS is a viable technology for reducing emissions from power plants?

I believe CCUS technology can play an important role in the development of our future coal fleet, however it is not yet a viable option. Both the SaskPower and Petra Nova plants referenced in your question relied on significant support from their respective governments to become operational. Forcing private businesses to use unproven, expensive technology would be unfair, which is why Congress provided for protections against the EPA embracing such a practice in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

15.In Rhode Island we have BioProcess H2O in Portsmouth and Agcore Technologies, LLC in Cranston that do carbon utilization—the conversion of carbon dioxide into useable products and fuels. These technologies not only capture carbon pollution, but can ease the demand of over-fishing by offering an alternative source of oils and protein. The carbon pollution from the algae production is creating and delivering algae-derived fish and animal feed. These utilization technologies are available now and are reducing carbon emissions. We also have retrofitted coal facilities using CCUS (SaskPower and Petra Nova). Do you believe that CCUS should be pursued as an emission reduction technology for the power sector and industrial sector?

Congress established clear directives the Administrator must consider when setting new source performance standards under the Clean Air Act. These directives are not technology specific, but instead require the Administrator set standards based on the best system of emission reduction that is technically feasible, achievable, adequately demonstrated and considerate of costs. If confirmed, I will follow the Clean Air Act process respective of the framework set by Congress.

16.According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2014, Oklahoma ranked fourth in the nation in net electricity generation from wind, which provided nearly 17% of the state's net generation. The American Wind Energy Association also estimates that wind power saved electricity customers in Oklahoma more than $1.2 billion in 2013 and a study from the Oklahoma State University found that wind companies have paid close to $134 million in property taxes to the state since 2004, producing revenues for the state. Do you agree that wind energy has saved Oklahomans money and brought revenues to the state? Do you agree that wind energy is an important part of our future clean energy economy?

As I discussed at my nomination hearing, 17 percent of Oklahoma's electricity is generated from wind, and as a state, we have a heavy emphasis

on renewables in addition to oil and gas. Wind energy can be part of successful, diverse, energy portfolio.

17.AWEA also found that the wind farms provided an additional $2.8 billion in societal benefits each year to Southwest Power and that the wind power helped save 3 billion in gallons of water in Oklahoma in 2013. The Windfall Coalition, a group created by Continental Resources Inc. founder and CEO Harold Hamm is trying to get rid of the Oklahoma's incentives for wind energy, as they believe it is a mature technology and doesn't need incentives. Do you support the Coalition's efforts?

The decision on how to address state tax incentives for Oklahoma lies with the State Legislature and, ultimately, the Governor.

18.According to the Wind Energy Association and Solar Energy Industries Association, in 2016 the United States had 400,000 wind and solar jobs–310,000 solar, 88,000 wind. In contrast, according to 2016 DOE Energy Employment Report, employment in oil and gas extraction was 388,000 and 53,000 in coal mining. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) just found that coal production continued to decline in 2016 down nearly 17% from 2015 production. Its Annual Energy Outlook in 2017 reports that declining cost of natural gas is still encouraging utilities to shift away from coal over the long-term. The change is expected under our existing policies regardless of the Clean Power Plan. Do you believe that dismantling the Clean Power Plan and cutting back on environmental regulations will bring back the coal industry? Specifically, will it bring back coal jobs and make coal the dominate source of electricity in the U.S. again?

I am unable to say whether United States utilities and electric cooperatives would or would not return to coal as a predominant portion of their fuel mix if the Clean Power Plan were revoked or other regulations were cut back. The federal Energy Information Administration projects that coal will be an important part of the American fuel mix for the foreseeable future.

19.The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to consult with an independent scientific body, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, on air quality standards. Congress has also directed EPA to establish and seek advice from an independent Science Advisory Board. Do you intend to deviate from the current appointment process for this advisory committee? Will you disclose professional and political affiliations and political contributions of members that you appoint to the committee? Do agree to maintain the existing structure of this committee and current rules that are in place for the decision making of this committee?

I understand and appreciate the important role of EPA's independent scientific bodies. I have no first-hand knowledge of the existing processes or rules of the advisory committees referenced in the question and, if

confirmed, I expect to learn more about these committees and commit to follow applicable legal authorities.

20. Improved environmental quality and economic growth aren't mutually exclusive. Since 2009, the states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) have seen carbon pollution fall by 18% while their economies grew by 9.2%. Emissions in the other 41 states fell by 4% while their economies grew by 8.8%. Do you agree that RGGI has developed a successful model for growing our states' economies and cutting carbon pollution at the same time? Will you commit to maintaining funding levels for EPA grant programs that fund state level initiatives to reduce their emissions?

While the agreement between the states participating in RGGI appears to be successful, what works for the Northeast may not achieve the same success in, for example, the Southwest. If confirmed, I look forward to working with EPA's budget staff and program offices to develop a budget focused on protecting human health and the environment for all populations. I will work to ensure that the limited resources appropriated to EPA by Congress are managed wisely in pursuit of that important mission and in accordance with all applicable legal authorities.

21. EPA operates multiple networks to monitor compliance with the Clean Air Act's National Ambient Air Quality Standards and to track hazardous air pollutants regulated under the act. These networks include, among others, the State and Local Air Quality Monitoring Network, the National Air Monitoring Network (which targets areas of high population density with a variety of air pollution sources), Special Purpose Monitoring Stations (used for short-term studies and other purposes), Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (used to measure pollutants that contribute to ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant), and the National Air Toxics Trends Stations. During our meeting you mentioned a desire to increase resources for the Office of Research and Development, specifically mentioning monitoring equipment in non-attainment areas. What is your vision for monitoring? Do you plan to increase funding at EPA for these important monitoring networks?

I agree that monitoring compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards is important to EPA's mission because it provides EPA with concrete and policy relevant data concerning the attainment status of communities throughout the country. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I expect to assess the Agency's resource usage and regulatory priorities and increased funding for air monitoring will be an area where I will consider deploying additional resources.

22. Section 105 grants provide significant funding to states for implementing the Clean Air Act requirements. Beginning in FY 2017, EPA is proposing a new formula for how the 105 grants are distributed to each of the regional offices (and subsequently to the states). Region 1, where Rhode Island receives its funding from, will receive a smaller percentage of the total 105 funds under this revised

formula. EPA is proposing an implementation approach that would limit regional losses to no more than 2.5% from each region's prior year amount. Region 1 will lose 2.5% for, at least, each of the next five fiscal years and possibly ten years, under this proposed approach. Will you commit to not implementing the new formula until and unless there is sufficient overall funding such that no Region will see reduced funding from the prior year's amount?

If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will consider this and other resource allocation issues and will use my best efforts to ensure that regional funds are allocated equitably.

23.The National Environmental Policy Act has been a bedrock of our nation's environmental laws, ensuring that the environmental and community impacts of major federal actions are properly understood, that alternatives are appropriately considered, and that the public has the opportunity to actively participate in the environmental review process. What is your view of NEPA and its associated regulations, and will you commit to ensuring that the law, including the processes it establishes to ensure meaningful public participation and informed decision making, is in no way weakened?

I understand the National Environmental Policy Act established the White House Council on Environmental Quality and generally a process for considering the environmental impacts of federal actions. If confirmed, I will faithfully execute all applicable laws as Administrator.

24. The EPA's Office of Civil Rights has a long history of failing to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. To date, the office has never found a violation of Title VI, which prohibits recipients of federal funding from acting in discriminatory ways. It has also allowed complaints to linger for years without a response. What will you do to ensure compliance by the EPA with the Civil Rights Act and to improve the track record of the Office of Civil Rights?

If confirmed as Administrator, I would expect to be briefed by staff and review any recommendations by the Office of Inspector General before taking action on this issue.

25. EPA and States are co-implementers of many of our federal environmental laws and programs. We believe that the tools used to implement these programs should be updated, particularly at the State level, to ensure effective implementation. Are there approaches, systems, or tools that you have considered to improve these programs and investments you would like to make in improvements that would benefit both federal and state environmental programs?

As I testified in the hearing, I have pursued opportunities to address interstate environmental quality matters. One of the examples I have highlighted is the work that Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel and

I took to address an enforceable water quality standard between Arkansas and Oklahoma. I have also discussed how Texas should be responsible when air quality issues affect Oklahoma and my experience with that. When negotiations among and between states breakdown EPA has a role to set environmental standards. However, that is should be a last course of action instead of the first. I believe environmental statutes are designed with states as a primary implementer. Environmental statutes envision that states have the delegated enforcement and primacy to implement and enforce environmental statutes. Only when that is not happening or when negotiations between and among states breakdown should EPA determine a dispute and only after attempting to assist states negotiate a local solution. I am fond of saying that we need national standards and neighborhood solutions. I think that should shape the work of the EPA.

26. Under Section 111(b) of the Clean Air Act ("CAA"), in 2012, EPA issued New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) to limit emissions of VOCs from new, reconstructed, and modified sources in the oil and gas industry and finalized the rule in August of 2015. EPA developed a regulatory impact analysis of the regulation that estimated that the final standards for new and modified methane sources will yield benefits of $690 million in 2025, which will outweigh estimated costs of $530 million in 2025. Do you disagree with EPA's regulatory analysis? If you do, can you specify what information and analytics you use to justify your position?

I am familiar with the rule and understand that regulatory impact analyses play an important role in the EPA's rulemaking process. I also understand certain statutes, executive orders, and federal guidance documents inform the development of regulatory impact analyses. If confirmed, I commit to work with EPA staff to ensure regulatory impact analyses follow the relevant legal authorities.

27. In 2009, as mandated by the Supreme Court and backed by a robust scientific and technical review, the Environmental Protection Agency produced the Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act. It found six greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride - "taken in combination endanger both the public health and the public welfare of current and future generations." You challenged the endangerment finding in court and lost. Do you agree with the EPA's finding? Do you commit to not take any steps as Administrator to narrow the scope or otherwise weaken this finding?

If confirmed, I will fulfill the duties of the Administrator consistent with Massachusetts v. EPA and the agency's Endangerment Finding on Greenhouse Gases respective of the relative statutory framework established by Congress. To my knowledge, there is nothing currently

pending before the EPA that would require I take any additional actions on the Endangerment Finding and if there were, it would not be wise to prejudge the outcome.

28.There appears to be clear benefit from the regulation of methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. Can you discuss your views on the techniques used in the regulatory impact analysis for the NSPS for new oil and gas wells to quantify the cost and benefits of the regulation? Do you commit to maintaining the same metrics like emissions reductions, monetized climate benefits and health co-benefits, economic effects, employment benefits when designing new rulemakings?

I am familiar with the role and understand that regulatory impact analyses play an important role in the EPA's rulemaking process. I also understand certain statutes, executive orders, and federal guidance documents inform the development of regulatory impact analyses. If confirmed, I commit to work with EPA staff to ensure regulatory impact analyses follow relevant legal authorities.

29.The regulatory impact analysis for the methane emissions estimates that the rule could also reduce 210,000 short tons of ozone-forming VOCs in 2025, along with 3,900 tons of air toxics, such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. Industry frequently talks about the costs to polluters of meeting public health standards while ignoring the costs to people harmed by the effects of pollution like the formation of ozone. Do you believe EPA should look at only the costs to the polluters when undertaking its regulatory impact analysis? Should the costs to families, such as children sent to emergency rooms due to asthma attacks triggered by smog, be included in the analysis? If so, should those costs be given a different weight than those claimed by industry?

I am familiar with the rule and understand that regulatory impact analyses play an important role in the EPA's rulemaking process. I also understand certain statutes, executive orders, and federal guidance documents inform the development of regulatory impact analyses. If confirmed, I commit to work with EPA staff to ensure regulatory impact analyses follow relevant legal authorities.

30.As you know, methane emissions from industry are as much as 90% higher than EPA had initially estimated, as has been demonstrated by academic peer-reviewed studies. New information is currently being sent to EPA, as part of the Information Collection Request (ICR), on methane emissions from existing sources. How do you plan to use the information collected? How do you plan to lead the agency in addressing this significant spike in known methane emissions?

Section 114 of the CAA provides the Administrator of the EPA to collect emissions data from existing sources. If confirmed, I will review the ICR

currently underway regarding methane emissions and examine the submitted data to determine the appropriate next steps.

31.You have been quoted previously, "my concern is that EPA is employing its flawed methodology in order to rationalize new and unjustified federal regulations to solve a methane-emissions problem that simply does not exist." Science has shown us that methane's effect on climate change is up to 34 times greater than that of CO2 when averaged over a 100-year time period and even greater when considered over the first 20 years after it is emitted. Additionally, a recent Geophysical Research Letter article found that the U.S. could be responsible for the 30% to 60% increase in atmospheric methane emissions since 2002. Can you clarify what you mean that a methane-emissions problem does not exist? Do you refute the argument that human's development of oil and gas has led to more methane emissions? The U.S., Canada, and Mexico have all pledged to work together in reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector between 40% to 45% by 2025. If you are confirmed as Administrator, do you intend to work with the State Department to honor our international methane commitments?

It is my understanding that even EPA's revised methane data shows a decrease in methane emissions from oil and natural gas development since 2005, during a time period of a large increase in domestic energy development. EPA's data is based on a number of assumptions that, if confirmed, I will review carefully prior to making any prejudgments of future actions.

32.The State Department and others have assessed life-cycle emissions for various crude oils and found tar sands crude is one of the dirtiest crudes on the planet from a GHG perspective. Do you agree tar sands crude has significantly higher life-cycle emissions than Oklahoma Sweet and most other crude oils?

The lifetime emissions of any energy source should be considered in the context of necessary extraction techniques as well as transportation of the fuel, among other issues. For example, transporting crude via pipeline clearly creates fewer emissions than transporting it via other sources in terms of fossil fuel energy. Without knowing the specifics of all of these factors in a given instance, it is difficult to identify which sources may result in greater emissions.

33.The State Department conducted a comprehensive economic and environmental analysis of the project and determined that under the current market conditions and those projected for the next few years, Keystone XL is key to getting tar sands crude to market. The EPA agreed with this conclusion. Do you agree? If not, why?

I am not familiar with the State Department study but with over 2.4 million miles of pipeline in the United States as well as other transportation methods for moving goods and energy resources it is my understanding that oil sands development has continued despite the lack of approval for the Keystone XL's cross-border permit.

34.Many of Keystone XL's proponents suggested that rejecting the project would simply divert more tar sands to rail to the Gulf Coast. Were you aware that according to the Energy Information Administration, shipments of Canadian crude by rail to the Gulf Coast have declined since Keystone XL was rejected, from 64,000 barrels per day in 2015 to 45,000 barrels per day in 2016?

I am not familiar with that particular EIA data.

35.The State Department found that the emissions associated with the production, refining and combustion of the tar sands in Keystone XL would result in 147 to 168 million metric tons (MMT) CO2e per year (equivalent to the emissions from as many as 35.5 million cars). The State Department also found that by displacing conventional crude with dirtier tar sands, the project would result in 1.3 - 27.4 MMT CO2e of additional emissions (equivalent to the emissions from as many as 5.7 million cars). Do you agree? If you disagree, please identify any research studies or experts you have consulted to form your opinion.

I am familiar with multiple State Department determinations that the Keystone XL pipeline would not significantly impact climate change.

36.In a recent study, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) concluded that diluted bitumen—the type of crude that would be primarily transported by Keystone XL—has a series of properties that, taken together, make tar sands spills of greater concern for spill responders than spills of other, commonly transported crude oils. Both EPA and the Coast Guard advised the scientists on the NAS committee. Do you agree with their conclusion that tar sands spills pose greater risks and challenges for spill responders than other crude oil spills? If you disagree, please identify any research studies or experts you have consulted to form your opinion.

Diluted bitumen has been transported safely by pipeline in the United States for more than 40 years. It is my understanding that he NAS report did not infer that the Keystone XL pipeline posed significant concerns or that diluted bitumen could not be safely transported via pipelines or other forms of transportation.

37.The NAS committee also found that there are no known, effective strategies for recovering tar sands bitumen than has been spilled in a waterbody and sunk. Do

you agree? If you disagree, please identify any research studies or experts you have consulted to form your opinion.

I have no information in supporting or challenging this assertion.

38. The NAS committee also found that regulations and agency practices do not take the unique properties of diluted bitumen tar sands into account, nor do they encourage effective planning for spills of diluted bitumen. Do you agree? If you disagree, please identify any research studies or experts you have consulted to form your opinion.

EPA is not the primary regulator of pipelines, this question would more appropriately be posed to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

39.The State Department's EIS found that Keystone XL's leak detection system is unlikely to identify leaks smaller than half a million gallons a day. Given the increased risks of tar sands spills and Keystone XL's proposed route through the Ogallala aquifer, should the EPA play an active role in ensuring that the water our nation's ranchers and farmers rely on is protected?

EPA should play an active role in ensuring protection of our domestic water supply.

40.The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has raised concerns regarding the effect that Keystone XL and the tar sands it carries will have on the air quality of Gulf Coast refinery communities. Do you believe that the EPA should take a role to ensure that projects like Keystone XL do not put our communities at risk of asthma, cancer and other serious illnesses?

I am aware that EPA has a role in implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, and other statutory responsibilities as it relates to infrastructure projects like pipelines. If confirmed as Administrator, I will work to faithfully execute the laws EPA is responsible for administering in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans.

41. Do you believe that Native Americans, landowners, farmers, ranchers and communities affected by projects like Keystone XL should have the opportunity to have their concerns considered and address as part of an environmental review process?

Yes.

42. Based on the climate change implications, spill potential, and other factors, the Obama Administration determined Keystone XL isn't in our nation's best interest. Do you agree? If not, why?

While the Obama Administration failed to grant the cross-border permit required to complete the Keystone XL pipeline, much of the pipeline was built in accordance with applicable laws and permits both federal and state. A large portion of the Keystone XL pipeline safely operates through Oklahoma and I believe that safely and efficiently moving natural resources through the country is very important.

43. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring EPA fully considers and articulates the environmental implications, based on the best-available science and in accordance with EPA's authority under the National Environmental Policy Act, when determining how to proceed on the Keystone XL Pipeline and any other projects?

If confirmed, I will faithfully execute all applicable laws as Administrator.

44. According to EPA 49% of coal units lack the most advanced NOx controls (Selective Catalytic Reduction systems or SCR). Several units that have SCR or other NOx emission control technology installed are not optimizing their use. For example, these six coal units have SCR installed but are not using it to optimize NOx reductions. In 2015, these facilities' NOx emissions were significantly higher than 2009 because they are not using the systems they have in place to reduce NOx. EPA estimates it costs facilities $500/ton NOx pollution to optimize the reduction of NOx from an SCR and $1300/ton to restart a SCR unit. Do you think these facilities should be regulated to keep on their NOx controls on?

If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will consider all matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act. That includes evaluating your concerns regarding the use of post-combustion NOx controls if and when they are presented to me in a matter before the Agency.

45. Industry frequently talks about the costs to polluters of meeting public health standards while ignoring the costs to people harmed by the effects of pollution. In Rhode Island these effects cannot be ignored as we seen them through rising seas and bad air days for Rhode Islanders. Because Rhode Island ozone air quality issues are largely due to transported emissions from upwind states leading to ozone formation that pollutes the air and lungs of people in downwind states like mine. Over the past two years in Rhode Island, the 8-hour standard ozone standard exceeded 0.07 ppm 10 times in 2015 and 6 times in 2016. With respect

to ozone, do you believe EPA should look at only the costs to the polluters when undertaking its regulatory impact analysis? Should the costs to families, such as children sent to emergency rooms due to asthma attacks triggered by smog, be included in the analysis? If so, should those costs be given a different weight than those claimed by industry?

Under the Clean Air Act, while setting NAAQS for criteria pollutants, cost cannot be considered. This is because human health is the primary focus of these standards. EPA's regulatory impact analyses have typically addressed what you describe as "costs to families" in the benefits portion of the analysis (i.e., the value of public health and environmental effects avoided).

46.EPA's independent science advisers, leading medical groups like the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Thoracic Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, and leading public-interest groups such as the NAACP called for a 60 ppb standard instead of the 70 ppb standard EPA finalized last year. What was your scientific basis for concluding that the old standard, 75 ppb, was sufficient to protect public health? Can you explain what sources you consulted? What groups you discussed this with?

Due to a number of factors and steps taken by the previous Administration, implementation of the 2008 ozone NAAQS did not begin until years later. States had only recently begun to implement the 75ppb standard for ground-level ozone when EPA changed it; considering that approximately 40 percent of the country was in nonattainment for the 2008 standard, I believe EPA should focus on helping those areas meet that standard. Oklahoma's challenge to the most recent ozone NAAQS was based, in part, on concerns that EPA has not adequately assessed the available science. It is EPA's obligation to properly justify any change to an existing NAAQS.

47.Rhode Island ozone air quality issues are largely due to transported emissions from upwind states leading to ozone formation that pollutes the air and lungs of people in downwind states like mine. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management told me that there remain a number of power plants located in upwind states that have pollution control equipment installed to reduce nitrogen oxides emissions that either do not use that equipment during the ozone season or do not use it in a way that optimizes the reduction of nitrogen oxides emissions. Why would this be the case?

I am unfamiliar with the specifics as to why certain sources upwind of Rhode Island may not be using control devices in particular ways. CSAPR and related rules are designed to address emissions from upwind states

that significantly contribute to nonattainment in downwind states. EPA presumably considered emissions from the upwind power plants referenced in your question in formulating the existing requirements.

48.Each year, RIDEM issues "ozone alerts" to warn vulnerable Rhode Islanders to stay indoors to protect their health on hot days when air quality is poor. This is a problem that cannot be solved in the state because masses of polluted air are coming from upwind. The health of Rhode Island citizens depends on a strong federal EPA program to impose pollution controls on NOx, particulates, and other mobile and stationary sources of pollution. What will you do to support the federal air quality programs? Will you commit to keep existing funding levels for the clean air programs that impose and regulate pollution controls and protect Rhode Islanders?

If confirmed, I will work to administer the statute and applicable federal programs in accordance with Congressional intent. I look forward to working with EPA's budget staff and program offices to develop a budget focused on fulfilling EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment for all populations. I will work to ensure that the resources appropriated to EPA by Congress are managed wisely in pursuit of the Agency's important mission and in accordance with all applicable legal authorities.

49.Ozone levels in RI are strongly affected by the transport of pollutants emitted in upwind states into RI. Although RI is currently designated as an unclassifiable/attainment area for the ozone NAAQS, monitored ozone levels in the State still exceed the standard on a number of days in the summer months. The Ozone Transport Region (OTR) states, including RI, have implemented a number of programs to reduce pollutant emissions from mobile and stationary sources in their states, as required by the Clean Air Act (CAA). RI and other OTR states were required by the CAA to implement emissions control programs not mandated in upwind states, resulting in increased energy costs and an inequitable economic burden to industry in the OTR states. Any additional emissions reduction programs that could be adopted in the OTR to further reduce ozone levels in the region would be less cost-effective than implementing OTR controls in upwind states and would further this inequity. What steps will you take to address the transport of pollutants emitted in upwind states that contribute to exceedances of the ozone standard in RI and other OTR states?

Interstate transport of pollutants is a concern. An upwind state that contributes to a downwind state's inability to meet air quality standards should take responsibility. It is EPA's responsibility to address such issues, and, if confirmed, I look forward to working on this issue.

50.The intent of the establishment of the RFS in the Energy Policy Act was to enhance U.S. energy security by displacing some imported petroleum with domestically produced ethanol. In your estimation, has the RFS reduced imports of foreign oil?

As Congress indicated in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, domestic production of renewable fuel contributes to our nation's "greater energy independence and security."

51.President-elect Trump has said, "The RFS, which is Renewable Fuel Standard, is an important tool in the mission to achieve energy independence for the United States. I will do all that is in my power as president to achieve that goal....Energy independence is a requirement of America's to become great again. My theme is "Make America Great Again"; it's an important part of it." Do you hold the same beliefs as President-elect Trump about the RFS? If not, can you be specific where your views differ on this policy?

As Congress indicated in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, domestic production of renewable fuel contributes to our nation's "greater energy independence and security." To that end, if confirmed, I will work to administer the RFS program in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

52.Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who has been supportive of the RFS, made a statement in Bloomberg Markets, "There's going to be a lot of saber-rattling, but it supports too many jobs and too much rural infrastructure is set up for it. The Renewable Fuel Standard is solid." Do you agree that the RFS has supported jobs . and helped develop our rural infrastructure?

Yes.

53.You have been quoted, "It should come as no surprise that I am working diligently with Oklahoma energy companies, the people of Oklahoma and the majority of attorneys general to fight the unlawful overreach of the EPA and other federal agencies." Do you think that the renewable fuel standard is one of those unlawful overreach regulations from the EPA? Can you explain in more detail the type of overreach you are talking about when it comes to the EPA and other federal agencies?

The RFS was first enacted by Congress in 2005 and updated and expanded in 2007 to promote domestic production and achieve energy independence. Therefore, I do not consider it to be "one of those unlawful overreach regulations from the EPA." The EPA needs to better administer this program

to provide involved entities with the certainty they need, and, if confirmed, i will administer the RFS in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

54. You have been quoted in the press saying, "The American people are tired of seeing billions of dollars drained from our economy due to unnecessary EPA regulations, and I intend to run this agency in a way that fosters both responsible protection of the environment and freedom for American businesses." Do you see the RFS as one of those unnecessary EPA regulations that is draining money from our economy?

The RFS was first enacted by Congress in 2005 and updated and expanded in 2007 to promote domestic production and achieve energy independence. The EPA needs to better administer this program to provide involved entities with the certainty they need, and, if confirmed, I will administer the RFS in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

55.The RFS has been a significant factor in growing the volumes of biodiesel and other advanced biofuels. In light of the uncertainty surrounding the Biodiesel Tax Credit and the increased volume of biodiesel imported from Argentina, do you intend to support the RFS and continue to increase the Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) that provide the long term market stability to support investment and increase the jobs available in a growing domestic industry? Do you commit to making all economic and pricing models used in developing the annual blending targets under the RFS available to the public? If you come across models that were used in the past that were left out of the public record, will you make those available? Do you intend to use EIA data in conjunction with your administration of the RFS? Are there other data sources that you intend to rely on?

If confirmed, I will administer the RFS in accordance with statute and Congressional intent. There has been significant investment that has gone into the infrastructure following the enactment of the RFS in 2005, and these individuals need certainty that the EPA has failed to provide in the past, from the trading program to monitoring the fraud in the system, to faith that the program will be enforced and administered as Congress intended. The Clean Air Act requires the Administrator of the EIA to submit annual projections of transportation fuel, biomass-based diesel, and cellulosic biofuel to be sold or introduced into commerce into the United States, and I will commit to continue relying on EIA data projections to set annual volume obligations.

56.It has been estimated that the RFS supports roughly 850,000 jobs across the country and many of those jobs rely on certainty from the EPA setting its volume

requirements for the renewable fuels each year. If confirmed to serve as EPA Administrator, will you carry out the Energy Policy Act as passed in 2005 and updated in 2007, particularly adopting the statutory volume requirements for renewable fuels?

Section 211(0) of the Clean Air Act contains enumerated tables of applicable target volumes of renewable fuel for calendar years 2006 through 2022. If confirmed, I will work to administer the RFS program in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

57.The RFS has driven investment in low carbon biofuels in our country. Are you committed to working to achieve the gains in advanced and cellulosic biofuels promised under the statue?

Section 211(0) of the Clean Air Act contains enumerated tables of applicable target volumes of renewable fuel, specifically cellulosic and advanced, for calendar years 2006 through 2022. If confirmed, I will work to administer this program in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

58. Following the Sixth Circuit's stay of the Clean Water Rule in 2015 pending further court action, the EPA and Army Corps issued a joint memorandum that states the agencies 1) "look forward to vigorously defending the merits of the Clean Water Rule, which we continue to believe is fully consistent with the law and based on the best available peer-reviewed science," 2) "intend to move forward with measures to improve implementation of the national CWA section 404 program that were announced concurrent with the Rule," 3) will continue their commitment to improve transparency through making section 404 decisions public and making a number of other improvements to the section 404 permit program, 4) strengthen coordination between the agencies, and 5) "work closely with the Department of Justice to ensure [their] actions remain consistent with the stay." If confirmed as EPA Administrator, will you uphold the tenets of this memorandum? If not, what would you change in the EPA's pursuance of clean water and cooperative relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers? Will you commit to working collaboratively with the Army Corps under its corresponding section 404 and other Clean Water Act authorities to ensure clean water for all Americans? If confirmed as EPA Administrator, would you advise DOJ to stop defending the rule and instead ask the court to set aside the rule and send it back to the agencies for reconsideration? Do you disagree with the process the EPA used in developing the Clean Water Rule, which involved incorporating the best available science and feedback received through around 400 public meetings and over 1 million public comments?

If confirmed I will support efforts of the Corp to improve transparency through making section 404 decisions public and to strengthen

coordination between the agencies. However, I do not support the WOTUS rule and do not believe that it is consistent with the Clean Water Act. Accordingly, if confirmed, I will take appropriate steps, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to withdraw the rule and replace it with a rule that is within the authority granted to EPA and the Corps under the Clean Water Act and is promulgated in compliance with the APA, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, Executive Order 13132 on Federalism, and Executive Order 12866 on regulatory planning and review, procedural requirements that I believe were not met in the promulgation of the WOTUS rule. If confirmed, I also would inform the appropriate courts of these actions.

59. In the wake of SWANCC, Rapanos, and other decisions, how would you shape regulations and internal EPA policy to provide more certainty for regulated parties on how the agency will make section 404 permitting decisions?

EPA does not make 404 permitting decisions. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act grants that authority to the Secretary of the Army, who carries it out acting through the Corps of Engineers. Under section 404(c) EPA has the authority to veto a Corps-issued permit if it EPA determines the discharge will have unacceptable adverse effects. If confirmed, I will seek to clarify when it is appropriate for EPA to use its 404 veto authority.

60. If you choose to pursue a renewed rulemaking to clarify "waters of the United States," will you follow the same procedure and commit to at least the same level of outreach the EPA undertook in developing the Clean Water Rule in developing a new rule?

If confirmed, I will ensure that the outreach performed by EPA is not only extensive, but meaningful.

61. Extreme weather events put water and wastewater infrastructure at risk. In Rhode Island, Super Storm Sandy almost caused Narragansett Bay to breach the water supply for the City of Newport. The March 2010, storms flooded the Pawtuxet River, overtopping the Warwick Wastewater Treatment facility and sending untreated wastewater into surrounding neighborhoods, the River and Narragansett Bay. What do you see as EPA's role in helping cities and towns respond to these increasingly frequent extreme weather events and ensure the safety of the nation's critical water and wastewater infrastructure?

EPA provides water and wastewater infrastructure assistance through the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act revolving loan funds and through the new WIFIA loan program.

62. What role can green infrastructure play in helping municipalities manage and prevent sewer overflows and other storm water and wastewater treatment concerns?

Green infrastructure is a neighborhood solution that can help meet national standards.

63. In making recommendations for revisions to state shares of Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) money, do you support increasing allocations for states with the oldest infrastructure?

No. I am not aware of any analysis that suggests that age of infrastructure is an appropriate metric that predicts funding needs for wastewater infrastructure. It was not suggested in the May 2016 Report to Congress from EPA on its review of the CWSRF allotment formula, required by section 5005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014. I also note that the formula is established by law and only Congress can change it.

64. Sea level in Newport, RI has risen over 10 inches since 1930, Rhode Island experiences significantly more rain and more intense storms than in past decades, and Superstorm Sandy and the Flood of 2010 destroyed roads and buildings. The RI Department of Environmental Management is finalizing an assessment of the vulnerability of each wastewater treatment facility in the state from damage due to flooding and storm surge. Will states have the ability to choose to use State Revolving Fund monies to finance resiliency projects under the next Administration? What restrictions, if any, would you foresee putting on the use of these funds for this purpose?

The eligibilities for the use of CWSRF funds are established in the Clean Water Act. If confirmed, I will manage that program as authorized by Congress.

65. States rely on EPA funding, technical assistance, and other resources to help keep the air, water, and soil clean, particularly through the State and Tribal Assistance Grants and Categorical Grants. State agencies like the RIDEM have delegated authority to carry out federal pollution control laws. Based on what you know about the EPA, do you believe states and tribes are getting enough money from the federal government to support clean air and clean water investments and

enforcement? If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring states and tribes continue to receive at least the amounts of funding they do now? Are there programs that support states and tribes that you would consider cutting or increasing financial support for?

I support the federalism structure of our federal environmental laws, which includes state delegation or authorization of most programs, and EPA STAG grants to help states implement those programs. If confirmed, I will seek to reduce the workload on states by refraining from adding more and more requirements for them to implement and to instead allow them to focus on implementing core environmental programs relating to air, water, and waste. I am not familiar with the development of EPA's FY 2018 budget so I cannot comment on that proposal, but please be assured that I support funding for states.

66.A 2016 Associated Press study of EPA data identified Providence, RI as "one of the largest [drinking water systems] in the country to exceed a federal lead standard since 2013." Almost 20 percent of all retail customers' homes were found to be serviced by utility-owned lead lines. EPA's lead limit before corrective action is required is currently 15 parts per billion. The city's water supply was found to be over this limit six times since 2010. Providence's water hit 30 parts per billion in tests in 2009 and 2013. Providence has shown marked improvement since those peaks, but there is still millions of dollars of investment needed in the city's drinking water infrastructure to reduce the risk of lead. What role do you believe EPA should play supporting these investments?

I would urge the City to explore funding opportunities available from the new WIFIA loan program, which is implemented by EPA.

67.What have you done in your career to demonstrate lead contamination of drinking water will be a priority if you are confirmed as EPA Administrator? Please cite specific examples.

I am concerned about children's health, but the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board have primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing environmental laws in Oklahoma, so issues relating to lead contamination of drinking water would fall within their responsibilities. If confirmed as Administrator, I will faithfully execute all environmental laws enacted by Congress, including the Safe Drinking Water Act.

68.In an interview with the Providence Journal last April, Rhode Island's chief of the Center for Drinking Water Quality at the RI Department of Health stated that "[i]n the last monitoring period, we had six small water systems exceed the lead action level. Five were school systems." These systems were brought back into

compliance, but the concern remains. How will you prioritize lead abatement in schools and among the most vulnerable populations?

If confirmed, I will fully carry out EPA's authorities, including its authorities under the Safe Drinking Water Act. I note that in the WIIN Act, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to authorize funding for voluntary school lead testing. If confirmed and if funding is provided, I will carry out that program.

69.EPA's regulations on lead in drinking water, otherwise known as the Lead and Copper Rule, were last revised in 2007. In its October 2016 white paper on revising the rule, the EPA recognized "[t]here is a compelling need to modernize and strengthen implementation of the rule—to strengthen its public health protections and to clarify its implementation requirements to make it more effective and more readily enforceable." Do you agree the Rule is in need of updating to reflect the latest science?

Yes.

70.Do you believe all covered water systems should follow EPA's drinking water analytical methods when testing drinking water for contamination? If so, what efforts will you undertake to ensure all water systems are brought into compliance?

If confirmed, I will fully carry out EPA's authorities, including its authorities under the Safe Drinking Water Act. To achieve this, I will focus on EPA's core missions, such as provision of safe drinking water.

71.In a November 2016 interview with the New York Times, President-elect Trump specifically called out "crystal clear water" as a priority. Do you agree "crystal clear water" should be a priority of the EPA? If so, please list the specific steps you would take as Administrator to make the President-elect's vision a reality.

Yes, I agree that clean water is a priority of the EPA. If confirmed, I will ensure that EPA focuses on the core missions as directed under laws enacted by Congress, including clean water and safe drinking water.

72.Over 40,000 water bodies in the United States are considered "impaired" under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, meaning they do not meet water quality and health standards. Six hundred and thirty-five of these are in Oklahoma. What specifics steps did you take as Attorney General and as a state legislator to improve the water quality in these impaired waters in Oklahoma?

Regulation of water quality in Oklahoma is the responsibility of Oklahoma's environmental regulators at agencies like the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Those agencies would be best situated to describe the actions taken by Oklahoma to improve water quality in impaired waters.

73.What clean water initiatives undertaken by the EPA in the last five years do you support?

I support the Mach 2011 nutrient framework issued by the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water entitled "Working in Partnership with States to Address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions," which prioritizes state action to encourage on the ground activities over establishment of numeric nutrient limits. I support EPA's May 2012 Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Framework, which directs EPA enforcement and permitting officials to allow municipalities to integrate multiple CWA responsibilities in a single plan and prioritize the actions with the greatest health and environmental benefits, and to allow extended compliance schedules to carry out that prioritization. I support EPA's efforts to promote green infrastructure to meet Clean Water Act requirements. Green infrastructure can be a neighborhood solution to meet national standards. I support the new Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan program authorized by Congress in 2014 that recently received its first appropriations. The WIFIA program creates tremendous opportunities to increase water and wastewater infrastructure investment because every federal dollar appropriated can leverage as much as $60 in infrastructure investments.

74.How will you address EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting backlog without undermining any environmental protections or subverting the goals of the Clean Water Act?

First, I would note that at the end of FY 2016, 96.9 percent of Oklahoma's permits were current. Making sure permits are current is one of core functions under the statutory responsibilities given to EPA and in turn carried out by authorized states. However, in recent years states have been asked to shift their focus and resources to other activities. If confirmed, I would return EPA's focus to ensuring that core functions under our environmental laws are carried out.

75.Factory farming of animals is known to cause multiple forms of pollution, such as contaminating local groundwater with nitrates, contributing to hypoxia and "dead zones" in rivers and coastal waters, and releasing the potent greenhouse

gas methane. Considering your close ties with the animal agriculture industry in Oklahoma, your previous history of unsuccessfully prosecuting lawsuits against states with animal welfare laws, your opposition of EPA's attempt to conduct a survey of CAFOs, and your pursuit of punitive yet failed investigations of nonprofit advocacy groups working for animal welfare, do you believe you should recuse yourself from any decisions related to enforcing the CWA and CAA to the fullest extent of the law against these facilities? If not, will you commit to disclosing to the EPW Committee any solicitations you have made to interested parties before you make any decisions related to this topic? If not, what assurances can you provide that you will be able to discharge your duties in this area impartially?

If confirmed, I will faithfully execute the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act as enacted by Congress. My track record with regard to CAFOs, which includes suing a CAFO together with EPA and collecting what EPA at the time said was the largest civil penalty ever assessed against a CAFO for CWA violations, demonstrates that I can, and will, approach such issues with a fair and open mind.

76.Explain your reasons for opposing EPA's 2012 attempt to conduct a survey of CAFOs. Has your thinking changed since then? Please explain why or why not.

For the purpose of this response, I am assuming that you are referring to EPA's 2011 proposed animal feeding operation reporting rule, published at 76 Fed. Reg. 65431 (October 21, 2011), and the January 19, 2012 comments on that proposed rule filed by 12 state attorneys general, including myself. This proposed rule is an example of an attempt to impose new regulatory requirements without complying with either the law or proper administrative process. Under the Clean Water Act, only facilities that discharge pollutants can be regulated. Despite this limitation on EPA's authority, it had twice before attempted to regulate non-discharging facilities. In 2005, the Second Circuit vacated parts of EPA's 2003 CAFO rule that purported to require non-discharging CAFOs to apply for permits. Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. v. United States Environmental Protection Agency, 399 F. 3d 486. In 2011, the Fifth Circuit vacated the part of EPA's 2008 CAFO rule that would have required all CAFOs "proposing to discharge" to apply for NPDES permits regardless of whether they had actual discharges. National Pork Producers Council v. United States Environmental Protection Agency, 635 F. 3d 738 (5th Cir. 2011). Further, EPA's authority to require reporting (section 308 of the CWA) applies only to point sources that discharge. That was made clear by the 8th Circuit in Service Oil, Inc. v. Environmental Protection Agency, 590 F. 3d 545 (8th Cir. 2009). Despite the clear limitations of the Clean Water Act, in the CAFO reporting rule EPA proposed to require facilities that are not subject to the Clean Water Act to submit reports to EPA. As such, that proposed rule exceeded EPA's authority.

77.According to the CDC, in 2014 Oklahoma reported the second highest rate of exposure to pesticides in the nation. At a time when pesticide/herbicide usage is on the rise across the country, how would you protect American workers, consumers, and landscapes from the toxic effects of agricultural chemicals?

I am not personally familiar with the data referenced in this question or generally the rate of pesticide usage in Oklahoma. If confirmed as Administrator, I would expect to be briefed by EPA staff before taking action on this issue and would work to ensure EPA followed all applicable legal requirements and made its decisions based on sound science in an open and transparent process.

78.Your close ties to the fossil fuel industry have given a strong appearance of pay-to-play politics favorable to that industry. As you well know, the agrichemical and seed biotechnology industry has a similar history of major lobbying, campaign financing, and maintaining close relationships with lawmakers and agency administrators. Monsanto, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and other agricultural interests contributed more than $90,000 to your previous campaigns. Do you believe you should recuse yourself from any decisions related to this industry? If not, will you commit to disclosing to the EPW Committee any solicitations you have made to interested parties before you make any decisions related to this topic? If not, what assurances can you provide that you will be able to discharge your duties in this area impartially?

It is my understanding that recusal obligations do not extend to regulatory rulemaking of general applicability, which does not create a conflict under applicable rules. In any matters involving specific parties where I believe that my impartiality may be questioned, I will consult with relevant federal ethics officials to determine whether to participate in a particular matter, provide them with all relevant facts, and follow their guidance. Following these procedures, along with all the other commitments I have made to comply with applicable ethics rules, will ensure that I discharge my duties impartially.

79.How should the EPA consider the synergistic effects of chemicals when considering approval of these chemicals under FIFRA?

If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by staff about EPA's relevant legal authorities concerning pesticide registration and current practices in this area before taking any action.

80.The Fish and Wildlife Service recently listed the rusty patched bumble bee as endangered, the first wild bee in the lower 48 states to receive this distinction. Pesticides were listed as part of the blame for the bee's current status. Other

bumble bee species are also at risk due to increased pesticide use and other environmental challenges. How can the EPA assist in bettering the understanding of pesticides' role in declining bee and other pollinator species?

I am generally aware of the important role bees play as pollinators, but I am not personally familiar with the details of the Endangered Species Act listing decision referenced in the question. If confirmed as Administrator, I would expect EPA to be briefed on the matter concerning EPA's legal authorities and any ongoing activities in this area before taking action.

81.Under your leadership, what role will EPA play in the management and control of vector borne illnesses like Zika?

If confirmed, I would expect to be briefed by staff about EPA's relevant legal authorities and operations in this area before taking any action.

82.With respect to the Rule of Law Defense Fund, please provide the following: A written explanation of the role you or any person under your supervision has played in the establishment and operation of the Fund; a list of all donors who have contributed to the Fund since its inception, total donated, and their affiliations; a list of all requests you have made for funding and what was given and from whom in response; a list of all expenditures of over $1,000 made by the Fund since its inception; details of any Fund expenditures over $100 that have benefited you or any person under your supervision, including travel; all communications, including e-mails, between you and the Fund and between you and any individuals related to the establishment of the Fund or the conduct of the Fund's activities; a list of all meetings and fundraisers organized by or sponsored in whole or in part by the Fund that you or any person under your supervision attended, including the dates, locations, agendas and attendees; and a list of all federal and state legislation or regulations the Fund has taken a position on, Fund-organized legal briefs and letters to federal lawmakers, and all actions you have taken with respect to those matters.

I did not play a role in founding or forming the Rule of Law Defense Fund, and no one on my staff played such a role. My understanding from the time I was a member of that entity's board is that its staff operates the fund. A list of contributors to the Fund since its inception is in the custody of RLDF and I do not personally have records of or have knowledge of that information. Expenditures by the fund are in the custody of RLDF, and I do not personally have records of or have knowledge of that information. Any records relating to requests for funding to individuals or to corporate entities would be in the possession of RLDF. RLDF has paid for flights and accommodations when I attended RLDF events or panel discussions.

Because those flights or accommodations were booked directly by RLDF staff, I am not in possession of any receipts for such flights or accommodations.

83.Please list all matters you or your office has had with the US EPA since you became Attorney General of Oklahoma. For the purposes of this and the following questions, "matters" refers to lawsuits (including lawsuits in which your office filed a "friend of the court" brief), enforcement actions, investigations, rulemakings, or any other matter which included an adjudication between parties.

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature requesting information on all matters, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office under the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

84.For each matter you identify in the previous question, please list the following: The names of the attorneys in your office who worked on the matter, and the names and affiliations of all attorneys with whom you or the attorneys in your office had communications about the matter. The names and affiliations of any person with whom you had communications about the matter, and the dates of the communications, and a summary of the substance of that communication. For any person listed the previous subpart, or corporation represented by that person, any contribution or payment made to Scott Pruitt for Attorney General, the Republican Attorney General Association, the Republican Attorney Generals Association, the Rule of Law Defense Fund, Liberty 2.0, Oklahoma Strong, or any other political action committee or 501(c)(4) organization with which you are or have been affiliated in any way.

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature requesting information on all matters, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office and the Oklahoma Ethics Commission under the Oklahoma Open Records Act and the individual political organizations.

85.Please list all matters you or your office has had with the US Department of Interior since you became Attorney General of Oklahoma. For the purposes of this and the following questions, "matters" refers to lawsuits (including lawsuits in which your office filed a "friend of the court" brief), enforcement actions, investigations, rulemakings, or any other matter which included an adjudication between parties.

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature requesting information on all matters, I would direct

you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office under the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

86.For each matter you identify in the previous question, please list the following: The names of the attorneys in your office who worked on the matter, and the names and affiliations of all attorneys with whom you or the attorneys in your office had communications about the matter. The names and affiliations of any person with whom you had communications about the matter, and the dates of the communications, and a summary of the substance of that communication. For any person listed the previous subpart, or corporation represented by that person, any contribution or payment made to Scott Pruitt for Attorney General, the Republican Attorney General Association, the Republican Attorney Generals Association, the Rule of Law Defense Fund, Liberty 2.0, Oklahoma Strong, or any other political action committee or 501(c)(4) organization with which you are or have been affiliated in any way.

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature requesting information on all matters, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office and the Oklahoma Ethics Commission under the Oklahoma Open Records Act and the individual political organizations.

87.Please list all matters in which your office participated in any way challenging a law, rule, or regulation of a state other than Oklahoma. For each matter listed, please include the following: Your understanding of the effect of that law, rule, or regulation on the people of Oklahoma. The names of the attorneys in your office who worked on the matter, and the names and affiliations of all attorneys with whom you or the attorneys in your office had communications about the matter. The names and affiliations of any person with whom you had communications about the matter, and the dates of the communications, and a summary of the substance of that communication. For any person listed the previous subpart, or corporation represented by that person, any contribution or payment made to Scott Pruitt for Attorney General, the Republican Attorney General Association, the Republican Attorney Generals Association, the Rule of Law Defense Fund, Liberty 2.0, Oklahoma Strong, or any other political action committee or 501(c)(4) organization with which you are or have been affiliated in any way.

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature requesting information on all matters, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office and the Oklahoma Ethics Commission under the Oklahoma Open Records Act and the individual political organizations.

88. As Attorney General you have played a major rule challenging EPA's Clean Power Plan and seven other major rules protecting the public from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic threats. Professional ethics rules prohibit attorneys from changing sides, as you would be doing if confirmed. Federal ethical guidelines specifically require that a public official should not act on a matter if a reasonable person who knew the circumstances of the situation could legitimately question his or her fairness. Will you commit to recusing yourself from substantive matters that include EPA's climate rules, its mercury and air toxics rules, its most recent clean water rule, and others related to the eight pending cases you have against EPA as an Attorney General?

It is my understanding that recusal obligations do not extend to regulatory rulemaking of general applicability, which does not create a conflict under applicable rules. With respect to my professional obligations as a member of the bar, I am not permitted to "switch sides" as counsel in any matter in which I participated as a lawyer. The standards that would apply to me as EPA Administrator are different as I would not be representing the EPA as a lawyer. Nonetheless, in any matters involving specific parties where I believe that my impartiality may be questioned, I will consult with relevant federal ethics officials to determine whether to participate in a particular matter and provide them with all relevant facts.

89.You have taken credit for the lawsuit State of Oklahoma et al. v. Mahard Egg Farm. What was the date on which the complaint in that case was filed? What are the dates of the allegations in the case? Had any Oklahoma state agencies taken any steps to investigate that matter before you became Attorney General? If so, please specify the agencies, their roles investigating the case, and the dates on which they were taken. Did the Oklahoma Attorney General's office take any steps to investigate that matter before you became Attorney General? If so, please specify what was done and when. Please indicate the date on which the Attorney General's office first contacted defendant(s) in this matter.

As I have testified, it was a lawsuit that I initiated together with the State of Texas and the EPA. The complaint was filed on May 23, 2011. The consent decree was entered into on August 10, 2011. There was no case when I took office, but the matter had been investigated by the Office of Attorney General, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, the EPA, and the State of Texas. I do not know the first date that the Office of Attorney General first contacted the defendants in that matter.

90.Have you ever met or spoken with Richard "Rick" Berman, who has been affiliated with Center for Consumer Freedom? If so, please describe the substance and dates of your communications with him. Did you or the Attorney General's Office during your tenure ever receive communications of any sort from

Mr. Berman or the Center for Consumer Freedom? If so, please specify the date and content of those communications.

I do not recall ever having met Mr. Berman. I am not aware of any communications with Mr. Berman, but a request for such information can be made to the Office of Attorney General pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act.

91.Before March 12, 2014, had your office received any complaints about the Humane Society of the United States [HSUS] from a resident of the State of Oklahoma? If so, please identify the date of the complaint, the allegations in the complaint, and the city or town of residence of the complainant.

I believe that our office had received such a complaint, but I do not know the residency of any such complainant. A request for such information can be made to the Office of Attorney General pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act.

92.In March 2014, your office issued a consumer warning about HSUS. Based on what evidence did you issue this warning? Did you or your office communicate to any person or entity outside the Attorney General's Office about the timing or substance of your consumer warning about HSUS before it was issued? If so, please state the names of those with whom you or your office communicated, the dates, and the substance of those communications.

The consumer warning was based on information suggesting that HSUS's solicitations for contributions might be misleading Oklahoma consumers. A request for communications can be made to the Office of Attorney General pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act.

93.On July 1, 2014, your office issued a Civil Investigative Demand (CID) to HSUS. Based on what evidence did you issue that CID?

The purpose of a CID is to gather such evidence.

94.On or about July 21, 2014, after the New York Attorney General entered into a settlement with the direct mailing firm Quadriga Art, you were quoted as saying "We believe what happened in New York potentially has happened in Oklahoma." Based on what evidence did you make that statement? Did you issue a Civil Investigative Demand or subpoena to any organizations other than HSUS as a result in whole or in part because of the NYAG's Quadriga Act settlement? If so, please specify the names of the organizations, the dates of the CID, and the result of any investigation conducted pursuant thereto. If not, what evidence did you have that distinguished HSUS from any of the other clients of Quadriga Art?

As I recall, the Office believed that Quadriga Art may have been the vendor for direct mailers used by HSUS in Oklahoma. I am not aware of any other CIDs issued as a result of the Quadriga Art settlement. I am not aware of the Office having received any complaints or having any open investigations relating to other Quadriga Art clients.

95.During the 2010 election cycle, did Devon Energy and Koch Industries max out to your campaign? During the 2014 election cycle, when you ran unopposed, did Devon, Koch Industries, and ExxonMobil max out to your campaign? How much total money has "Scott Pruitt for Attorney General" received from fossil fuel and agricultural interests? Please list your fossil fuel and agricultural donors, dates, and amounts.

A full list of contributors to my campaigns for the state senate and attorney general may be found at the Oklahoma Ethics Commission's websites. For state campaign committee from 2002-2014, please use this site: https://www.ok.gov/ethics/public/candidate.php. For 2015 to the present, the Commission uses this site: http://guardian.ok.gov/PublicSite/SearchPages/Search.aspx?SearchTypeCodeHook=1F26BA5E-71EA-48E4-8D50-C1013E9FE0A7. Attached is a letter from the Oklahoma Ethics Commission regarding materials prior to 2002.

96.How much total money did Oklahoma Strong, your leadership PAC, receive from fossil fuel and agricultural interests? Please list your fossil fuel and agricultural donors, dates, and amounts.

I do not manage or control Oklahoma Strong PAC. Questions relating to its donors would need to be directed to those who do.

97.How much total money did Liberty 2.0, the SuperPAC created to help get you elected, receive from fossil fuel and agricultural interests? Please list your fossil fuel and agricultural donors, dates, and amounts.

I do not manage or control Liberty 2.0. Questions relating to its donors would need to be directed to those who do.

98.Did you or anyone working for you or on your behalf ever solicit money for Oklahoma Strong or Liberty 2.0 from fossil fuel and agricultural interests? If so, when, from whom, and what was the result? Please note any solicitations that were made in which you mentioned work done in your official capacity as Attorney General of Oklahoma and what that work was.

I solicited funds for Oklahoma Strong PAC from a broad array of individuals and corporations representing many different industries. While I do not recall specific solicitations, given my state's deep ties to farming and oil and

gas, I do not doubt that I at some point fundraised from individuals with some connection to those industries. Staff members of the Oklahoma Strong PAC may have records of such solicitations, so requests for details would have to be made to that entity. I have on occasion solicited funds for Liberty 2.0, and records of those solicitations may be maintained by the staff of that organization, so requests for details would have to be made to that entity. I do not recall the contents of any specific conversations that I may have had in this context.

99. During the hearing, I asked if you led the Rule of Law Defense Fund. In response, you stated you had "been an officer of the organization [Rule of Law Defense Fund] for 2016." Your EPW questionnaire states you were a board member or chairman at the Rule of Law Defense Fund between November 2013 and December 2016 while your OGE disclosure says you were a member of the board or Chair between April 2014 and December 2016. Please clarify when you were you a board member of the Rule of Law Defense and when were you the Chair.

I served on the Board of Directors of the Rule of Law Defense Fund from April 2014 until November 2016. I served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rule of Law Defense Fund from November 2015 to November 2016.

100. During the hearing, I asked if you've ever solicited funds for RAGA and you stated you "did not serve in an officer capacity at that entity [RAGA]." On your EPW disclosure form you stated you were a member of the executive committee between November 2013 and November 2015. As discussed, OGE doesn't require you to disclose your relationship with RAGA or other 527 political organizations. Your LinkedIn and campaigns pages state you were chair of RAGA for two terms and RAGA's website indicates you were the RAGA chair in 2012 and 2013. Please clarify when you've been chair of RAGA and when you've been on RAGA's executive committee. Did you provide any information about your relationship with RAGA to OGE or EPA when they were reviewing your conflicts of interest?

I served as Chairman of the Republican Attorney Generals Association from November 2011 to November 2013. These dates represent "two terms" of serving as Chairman. Thereafter, I was a member of the Executive Committee from November 2013 to November 2015. I made all required disclosures to OGE and EPA ethics counsel, including disclosures about my relationship to RAGA.

101. RAGA has given other Republican attorneys general call sheets to solicit on its behalf. Have you or any person working on your behalf ever received call sheets from RAGA asking you to solicit money or event sponsorships? If so, when, for what purpose, who was on your list to contact, who if anyone did you or

any member of your staff make contact any of the listed people/entities, and how much money and which sponsorships was given to RAGA as a result?

I did receive call sheets to solicit funds and/or event sponsorships for RAGA and I did make contact with the listed people/entities. The exact dates, the purpose, and who was called are records that are kept by RAGA, and those requests would need to be made to RAGA. Similarly, I do not have records of how much money or sponsorships were raised as a result - those records are kept by the Republican Attorneys General Association.

102.Besides call sheet efforts, did you or any person working on your behalf ever solicit money for RAGA? If so, when, from whom, for what purpose, and what was the result?

No one else working on my behalf has solicited funds for RAGA. In addition to call sheet efforts, I have asked for funds from individuals/entities in person for RAGA. Records of exact dates, names of individuals and entities and how much money was solicited are kept by the staff of RAGA.

103.In 2015, you were on the agenda to speak on a panel entitled, "The Dangerous Consequences of the Clean Power Plan and other EPA Rules" during RAGA's National Summer meeting that included several fundraisers. The agenda for that meeting included private meetings with attorneys general and Murray Energy, Southern Company, and American Fuel Petrochemical Manufacturers. According to RAGA's 2015 and 2016 member benefits descriptions, donors that contribute $50,000 or more have an "annual opportunity to lead private briefings with Republican attorneys general during RAGA events" and attend other private events, including private dinners and retreats, at which Republican attorneys general are present. Did you or any person working on your behalf attend any of the private meetings with Murray Energy, Southern Company, and/or the American Fuel Petrochemical Manufacturers during the 2015 Summer National RAGA meeting? If yes, please provide a list of meeting attendees, any minutes/notes taken, and describe any conversations about EPA matters.

I do not recall which meetings I attended at the event you reference.

104.During your time as a member of RAGA, have you or any person working on your behalf attended any private meetings or functions with co-plaintiffs or amici for any of the 14 cases you brought against EPA? If yes, please provide a description of the meeting, the date, a list of meeting/event attendees, any minutes/notes taken, and describe any conversations about EPA matters.

I do not recall private meetings or functions with a co-plaintiff or amici while at a RAGA event, and do not know of any instance where a person working on my behalf attended such a meeting. In instances where a case is being litigated, counsel for each plaintiff or amici will routinely speak about matters related to the litigation, as court rules and other procedural matters often require such communications.

105.RAGA indicates that it raises and spends considerable amounts of money to support the election campaigns of Republican attorneys general. Please detail all expenditures from RAGA used to support your position in office, including but not limited to election campaign spending, contributions to other groups and PACs, and opposition research. Please detail any actions that you or your staff have taken to support the fundraising of RAGA for its campaign spending.

RAGA's Oklahoma PAC contributed $5,000 to Scott Pruitt for Attorney General in April, 2014. Inquiries about what other groups and third parties RAGA may have contributed to, or research they conducted would have to be directed to RAGA.

106.RAGA has indicated it has chartered flights for Republican attorneys general. Have you ever been a passenger on a RAGA-chartered flight? If so, when and where did you travel to and from? Did RAGA ever cover or reimburse you for transportation and accommodation? If so, please itemize when, for what, and the value.

Yes, I recall I was a passenger on a chartered flight to and from Las Vegas, Nevada in the fall timeframe of 2014. RAGA has covered the cost of flights and accommodations for me when I have attended RAGA meetings. I do not keep itemized records of these expenses, flights and accommodations are booked directly by RAGA staff.

107.While you were on the board of RLDF, did it cover any chartered flights on which you were a passenger or any of your transportation and accommodation costs? Please itemize any chartered or commercial flights, accommodations, and other travel-related expenses that exceed $100, and the value that RLDF covered.

As far as I am aware, RLDF has never covered the cost of chartered flights for me or my staff. RLDF has covered costs of transportation and accommodations when I traveled on behalf of RLDF for meetings, panels, and other policy-related events. The staff of RLDF booked travel and accommodations for me directly, and records of the costs and expenses are kept by Rule of Law Defense Fund staff and are not in my possession.

108.In 2014 and 2015, while you were on the board or Chairman of RLDF, it contributed over half a million dollars to RAGA. Please list each transaction and the purpose of the transaction.

Records of transactions between those entities are held by Republican Attorneys General Association staff and Rule of Law Defense Fund staff and are not in my possession.

109.As Attorney General, you have jointly signed numerous letters with other Republican attorneys general, such as your letter of June 15 2016 outlining your opposition to state investigations of ExxonMobil. What role did the Rule of Law Defense Fund have in preparing and coordinating release of any letters signed by you as Attorney General? What role did the Republican Attorneys General Association have in preparing and coordinating release of any letters signed by you as Attorney General? What role did any corporate funder of Rule of Law Defense Fund or Republican Attorneys General Association have in preparing and coordinating release of any letters signed by you as Attorney General?

I am not aware of what steps may have been taken by the Rule of Law Defense Fund in preparing or coordinating letters. Day to day operations of the Rule of Law Defense Fund are delegated to staff of the organization. I am unaware of any role by RAGA in preparing or coordinating release of letters. My understanding is that such letters are typically released by the office who took the lead on preparing the letter. I am unaware of any corporate funder of either RAGA or RLDF having any role in preparing or coordinating the release of letters signed by my office.

110.During your time on the board or as Chairman of Rule of Law Defense Fund, did corporate donors to that organization participate in any meeting of the executive committee, including board meetings, phone calls or retreats, during which any EPA matters were discussed? If yes, which corporations participated, what was the nature of the event, and how did they participate (e.g., in person, by phone)?

During my time as Chairman of Rule of Law Defense Fund, I cannot ever recall a time when "corporate donors" participated in a meeting of the executive committee, including board meetings, phone calls or retreats during which EPA matters were discussed. However, members and funders of the Rule of Law Defense Fund were invited to attend large group panel discussions hosted by RLDF where several EPA matters were discussed. Any records of attendees at those meetings would be in the possession of the Rule of Law Defense Fund staff.

111.During your time as attorney general, have you received gifts or in-kind donations that exceed $100 from any entities besides RAGA and RLDF? If so, please list when, from whom, and describe if it was related to a specific event or commitment.

I do not recall receiving gifts with a value of more than $100 from RAGA and/or RLDF. I have, as stated before, had travel and accommodations provided for me when I traveled to and from RAGA or RLDF meetings.

112.Will you commit to recusing yourself from matters before EPA involving any party from whom you have solicited funds during your time as Attorney General of Oklahoma?

Before participating in any matters involving specific parties where I believe that my impartiality may be questioned, I will consult with relevant federal ethics officials and provide them with all relevant facts.

113.Under your predecessors, senior EPA managers' schedules have been available to the public. If confirmed, do you agree to make senior managers' schedules available as well?

If confirmed, I will commit to following applicable laws concerning the public availability of schedules for senior managers.

114.How many email addresses have you used since becoming Attorney General of Oklahoma? How many do you still use? Please provide the domains of all email addresses you've used during your time as Attorney General of Oklahoma, along with the dates used, and note whether they were personal, professional, or both.

I have used two e-mail addresses since becoming Attorney General of Oklahoma. I use a personal e-mail address for personal e-mail, and an official e-mail address for official business. The domain of my personal e-mail address is me.com and the domain of my official e-mail address is oag.ok.gov.

115.Have you ever conducted business using your personal email accounts, non-official Oklahoma Attorney General email accounts, text messages, instant messenger, voicemails, or any other medium? If yes, please provide all business-related emails, texts, from those mediums and any others you've used to conduct official business.

I use only my official OAG email address and government issued phone to conduct official business.

116.In a recent Oklahoma Strong fundraising email, you said:"...As Chairman of the Rule of Law Defense Fund, the policy arm for Republican Attorneys General, I asked my fellow AGs to sign onto a letter urging Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Judiciary Chairman Grassley to stand strong and continue to hold fast against this [Merrick Garland] nomination." What email address did you use to get the other attorneys general to sign onto this letter? What if any groups solicited signatures from other attorneys general? Did you ask Democrats to sign the letter or just Republicans?

I do not recall using any email address to solicit signatures. I have no knowledge of what other groups may have solicited signatures from attorneys general. I do not recall asking any Democrats to support the letter.

117.If confirmed, do you commit to notifying the Committee of all of the email addresses you plan to use upon confirmation and within seven days of using a new email address, including any aliases or pseudonyms? Do you commit do conducting all business using official email addresses and other means and to refrain from any mediums that are outside the Freedom of Information Act's reach?

If confirmed, I commit to notifying the Committee of the e-mail address I use for official business. I will use my official e-mail address for official EPA related business.

118.The office of the Oklahoma AG's budget and FTEs have grown significantly while you've been in office and you indicated you have seven FTEs, accounting for $679,000 in salaries, focused on "environmentally-related responsibilities." What is the breakdown of budget and FTEs dedicated to challenging EPA vs. criminal and civil environmental cases?

The Office's budget and expenditures can fluctuate greatly year over year depending on the timing of case settlements and related distributions. For example in fiscal year 2014, the Attorney General's Office distributed higher than normal case settlement funds that inflated the budget over typical levels. Conversely, that total came down in fiscal years 2015 and 2016. Thus, fluctuations such as the one assumed by your question do not accurately reflect the size of the Office's budget. In my tenure as Attorney General, the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General streamlined legal services for dozens of agencies, returned $29 million to the General Revenue Fund, distributed mortgage settlement restitution funds to impacted citizens, strengthened tobacco enforcement, and led the Office in such a fiscally responsible manner that the Office was able to forego all $6.4

million in state-appropriated operating funds for fiscal year 2017--that in addition to the Office having its annual appropriation cut in every prior year. The Office of Attorney General was the only state agency to voluntarily do this. During my tenure, the Office assumed the statutory duties of the Human Rights Commission through our Office of Civil Rights Enforcement, strengthened tobacco settlement enforcement efforts, and launched the Solicitor General's Unit. The Office also increased by one third the number of agencies, commissions, or boards which it represents. This has led to a precipitous decline in state agency usage of costly private counsel. It is these and other efforts that have permitted the Office to contribute approximately $29 million to the General Revenue Fund over the last six years. With regard to FTEs related "to challenging EPA vs. criminal and civil environmental cases," the Office currently has four FTEs whose responsibilities would include (among many other things) challenges to EPA rulemakings or other actions.

119.As submitted for the record, here are some statistics from Drew Edmonson's Environmental Unit (1997 to 2010): Criminal matters
142 criminal investigations; 56 federal or state prosecutions; 110 felony counts convictions of individuals; 21 misdemeanor count convictions of individuals; 10 felony counts convictions of corporations; 3 misdemeanor count convictions of corporations; 28 years of jail time; $8M in fines. Is it still your position that the Environmental Protection Unit was only handling one case when you took office?

I am not familiar with the cases being handled prior to my taking office. As I have stated, when I took Office, the primary focus of the "environmental protection unit" was a single lawsuit relating to poultry farms.

120.We reviewed the Oklahoma Attorney General's website between when you took office and the present and found no press releases on criminal or civil environmental enforcement matters. For this review, we did not include lawsuits by Oklahoma against EPA. Why were there no environmental enforcement matters listed on your website as of January 17, 2017?

I have not reviewed the website, so I am not familiar with what matters are or are not listed.

121.What specific reductions in air, water, or solid waste pollution have resulted from your environmental enforcement actions as Attorney General?

Environmental regulation in Oklahoma is the responsibility of Oklahoma's environmental regulators at agencies like the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The

Office of Attorney General sometimes provides legal services to those agencies with regard to environmental issues, and in that capacity the Office has, for example, negotiated a consent decree requiring a large concentrated animal feeding operation to clean up its operations to prevent water pollution, and negotiated an agreement whereby Arkansas agreed to a stringent phosphorous standard in the Illinois River.

122.How many criminal investigations, federal prosecutions, state prosecutions, felony count convictions of individuals, misdemeanor count convictions of individuals, felony count convictions of corporations, misdemeanor count convictions of corporations, years of jail time, and cumulative fines resulted from environmental cases you initiated? Please list and describe any civil suits and actions you initiated.

To list and describe every civil suit and action initiated by the Office of Attorney General would be all but impossible. Each attorney is responsible for maintaining their own case files, and the Office employs many attorneys across many different units who litigate civil matters of all kinds. In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature requesting information on all matters, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office under the Oklahoma Open Records Act, and to the extent it is even possible to compile such a list, the Office would make efforts to do so.

123.The Center for Media and Democracy ORA request is dated on or about January 5, 2015. During the hearing, you said, "I actually have a general counsel and an administrator in my office that are dedicated to performing or providing responses to open records requests." In response to questions about the January 5, 2015 request, your general counsel apologized for the delayed response and explained she was busy with other duties. What percentage of time do each of the two staff you mentioned dedicate to responding to Open Records Act requests? Have you communicated with your office's general counsel or any other attorney handling ORA requests to discuss the timing of your office's response to any specific request? If so, please identify which requests you discussed, the dates of those discussions, and the substance of your discussions.

The Office of Attorney General employs a paralegal who intakes requests, opens files, and searches for documents responsive to each Open Records Act request. Once the search is complete, the office's general counsel must review each document to ensure it does not contain information required to be kept confidential under state and federal laws. Along with overseeing the Open Records Act process, the office's general counsel is responsible for overseeing many other programs and statutory duties with which the Office is tasked. I am unaware of what percentage of time is spent solely on Open Records Act requests. I do not recall any conversations with individuals in my office regarding the timing of Open Records Act responses.

124. In a letter regarding this request, your general counsel stated your office processes "these requests in the order in which they are received." How long has that been the policy of your office? Have you fulfilled any ORA requests submitted since at least January 5, 2015?

To my knowledge, that is how the office has historically processed such requests. I am not aware of which requests submitted since January 5, 2015 have or have not been responded to.

125.According to a recent E&E article, your office has 52 outstanding open records requests. Please provide a list of all pending FOIA, Open Records Act or other similar information requests under Oklahoma state law, by whom, and when each was a filed.

I am not familiar with the pending requests. Such a requests should be directed to the Office of Attorney General's general counsel, who can provide such a list.

126.The public and this Committee, in fulfilling our constitutional advice and consent duties, have a right to see information pursuant to the Open Records Act. Please produce all of the following material that has been requested under the Open Records Act prior to November 8, 2016: related to RAGA, RLDF, Liberty 2.0, Oklahoma Strong, and any other 527s, 501(c)(3), and 501(c)(4)s, including the State Policy Network and ALEC; correspondence with the fossil fuel and agriculture industries and any other industries regulated by EPA; any other material related to energy, environment, agriculture, and EPA.

If Open Records Act requests for such information have been made, as your question suggests, those requests will be answered in the normal course.

127.Please provide a list of all Open Records Act requests your office has received during your tenure, from whom and when, the number of days it took to produce the requested documents or decline the request, the outcome of those requests including whether any decisions have been or currently are being challenged in court, and share the following material that has been disclosed as a result of those requests with the Committee: related to RAGA, RLDF, Liberty 2.0, Oklahoma Strong, and any other 527s, 501(c)(3), and 501(c)(4)s, including State Policy Network and ALEC; correspondence with the fossil fuel and agriculture industries and any other industries regulated by EPA; any other material related to energy, environment, agriculture, and EPA.

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office under the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

128.What was the average length of time it took your office to fulfill open record act requests to your office between January 2011 and December 6, 2014? What was the average length of time it took your office to fulfill open record act requests to your office from December 7, 2014 to the present? What, if any, steps has your office taken to improve the timeliness of your open records act responses?

I am not aware of what the average length of time my office took to fulfill open record act requests is. I have directed my staff to respond to all open records act requests in a timely and efficient manner.

129.Under what circumstances would it be appropriate for EPA to fail to respond to a FOIA request for 700 days?

I am not in a position to render an opinion a hypothetical given that different open record requests raise issues specific to the particular requests at issue. However, I appreciate the importance of openness and transparency, and if confirmed I will work to ensure EPA complies with all legal requirements concerning the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act and other statutes EPA is responsible for administering.

130.Why did you fail to disclose records on your office's expenditures on outside attorneys, as is required under Oklahoma state law, until contacted by a reporter? Why did you not hold your own office's spending practices to the same standard expected of other Oklahoma state offices?

The Office of Attorney General complies with its legal obligations relating to outside counsel, and discloses any outside counsel contracts when asked.

131.Is it correct that your office has spent over $1 million in outside lawyer expenses during your tenure? Please explain the unreported increase in expenses.

The bulk of the outside counsel expenses incurred by the Office during my tenure relate to a single dispute over water rights in southeastern Oklahoma. The Legislature specially appropriated funds to my office for the specific purpose of retaining outside counsel with expertise relevant to that tribal water law issue.

132.Oklahoma state law requires that state agencies select attorneys from a pre-approved list. Several of the outside attorneys that your office has hired are not included on the list of approved attorneys. Why didn't you comply with this requirement?

Because the Office of Attorney General maintains the referenced list, and is authorized to allow representation from attorneys not on the list, the Office of Attorney General plainly has the discretion to allow representation from attorneys not on the list.

133.You have not released records on your contracts with outside attorneys, as required under Oklahoma state law. Please provide all contracts, including any related to pro-bono work. Have any private interests been funding outside attorneys representing your office in lawsuits against the federal government? If so, who, why, and in what amounts? For any pro-bono work, is that an in-kind donation that should be recorded and accounted for in your office's accounting? Has your office done so? Please provide a list of these in-kind donations, from whom, when the work was done, and the value.

A requests for such contracts can made to the Office of Attorney General pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act. When my office retains outside counsel to assist on a matter, it either compensates those attorneys itself, or the outside counsel provides the services pro bono. I am not aware of any outside funding of pro bono counsel, and would not retain any pro bono counsel if they were being so funded. I am not aware of any requirement that pro bono legal services be considered an in kind donation to the Office of Attorney General.

134.You received campaign contributions from at least one of the attorneys that provided outside representation for Oklahoma—David Rivkin, of D.C. law firm BakerHostetler. Is there a prohibition on receiving campaign contributions from those in a contractual relationship with your office? Was your contribution from Mr. Rivkin in compliance with such requirements?

I am not aware of any such requirements. In any event, Mr. Rivkin received no compensation from the Office for the legal services he provided.

135.Are you aware of any payments made to Mr. Rivkin from other parties in return for his representation of your state?

I am unaware of any payments made to Mr. Rivkin from any other parties in return for his representation.

136.Did you contact Mr. Rivkin about representing the State of Oklahoma, did he contact you, or did a third-party made the connection? Please explain.

I cannot recall the exact circumstances leading to Mr. Rivkin's representation, or who initiated the contact. Mr. Rivkin has represented over half of our Nation's states on various matters, and is a well-recognized expert on constitutional questions, particularly those relating to States and their federalism interests.

137.According to your questionnaire, you've given dozens of environment-related speeches in Oklahoma and around the country, many to industry groups. Have you ever given one to a public health group, environmental NGO, or scientific society? You've received various awards, several from industry groups. Have you ever received an award from a public health or environmental group for protecting public health? How about environmental quality? Have you ever received an award from a scientific society?

I have given dozens of speeches on a wide variety of topics to many different groups and industries. I do not recall a specific public health group, NGO or scientific society I have spoken to. I do not recall receiving awards from a public health or environmental group or a scientific society.

138.Please provide any correspondence or details about other communication between you or anyone working on your behalf concerning the establishment or activities of America Rising, America Rising Squared, and Protecting America Now, and any other organizations that are funding efforts to get you confirmed as EPA Administrator.

I am not aware of any such correspondence.

139.You wrote an op-ed attacking efforts to investigate whether Exxon deliberately misled investors and the public despite internal research confirming that climate change is real. Please describe any conversations you've had with political donors to you or your affiliated political action committees, RAGA, Rule of Law Defense Fund, or co-plaintiffs or amici in your cases against EPA about ExxonMobil's potential liability under federal or state law regarding climate change (e.g., federal RICO, New York state's Martin Act, etc.), including the date and substance of those conversations.

I do not recall any such conversations.

140. During your time as the Attorney General of Oklahoma, have you or anyone in your immediate family owned any stocks of companies that were co-plaintiffs or amici in any of your 14 cases against the EPA, including ExxonMobil, Devon Energy, Murray Energy, Southern Company, and Continental Resources. If yes, please list the stock, dates held, and amount.

To my knowledge, no, and a list of my investments has been provided as part of my financial disclosures.

141. In implementing the Lautenberg Act, EPA, consistent with congressional intent, issued a notice making it clear that substantiation of all non-exempt confidential business information (CBI) claims is required upfront. Do you commit to ensuring the EPA follows and upholds that requirement?

As I have previously stated I believe the Lautenberg Act struck an appropriate balance between protecting confidential business information and informing the public and I intend to apply the law as drafted by congress.

142. In a speech at Hillsdale College on June 30, 2016, you referred to a three-hour private, basement meeting with Supreme Court Justices Scalia and Thomas, Leonard Leo of the Federalist Society, and other unidentified people. Referring to Justice Scalia, you said: Leonard [Leo] blessed me on a number of occasions to spend some quality time, personal time, with the previous justice. In fact, I remember one year about three years ago, I was here for a Federalist Society event, their annual meeting that occurs in November. Leonard said 'Scott, stay over, I'd like for you to go dinner on Friday night'... we went to a basement in Washington DC, there were about ten of us in attendance. Two of those folks in attendance were Justice Scalia and Justice Thomas. And we spent three hours talking about the constitution and things that were involved in as attorneys general. It was a fabulous time.

What was the date of this basement meeting? Please provide a complete list of the participants. Please list all cases pending before the Supreme Court at the time of this meeting in which the State of Oklahoma was a party and/or on which you or an attorney in your office was counsel of record. During the basement meeting, was there any discussion or mention of EPA, the environment, public health, environmental or public health regulations, environmental laws including but limited to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, NEPA, mercury, cross-state air pollution, Renewable Fuels Standards, ozone standards, endangerment from GHGs, regional haze, or climate change. If so, please identify the specific topics that were discussed or mentioned. Have you ever had any other private meetings with any other state or federal judges or justices while you had cases pending before their courts? Which cases? Please describe any such meeting, including the dates, locations, attendees, and topics discussed.

I do not recall the date of the dinner to which you refer, but I believe it was in November 2013. It was a private dinner. I am not aware of any matters that my office had pending before the Supreme Court at the time. As far I recall, none of the topics you mentioned was discussed, nor was any specific matter of any sort discussed. I am not aware of any other meetings of the sort to which you refer. In my capacity as attorney general, I am often at events with judges or justices of various sorts, but no discussion of pending matters would ever occur in any social interactions we might have.

143.The lifetime emissions of any energy source should be considered in the context of necessary extraction techniques as well as transportation of the fuel, among other issues. For example, transporting crude via pipeline clearly creates fewer emissions than transporting it via other sources in terms of fossil fuel energy. Without knowing the specifics of all of these factors in a given instance, it is difficult to identify which sources may result in greater emissions.

The role of the United States in the Paris Agreement is a State Department matter. If confirmed, I will work to advance the mission of the EPA, which is to protect human health and the environment, consistent with the State Department's strategy for international engagement on climate change.

144. Do you support the amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down HFCs?

Should the State Department decide to advance the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and if I am confirmed as Administrator, I will work with all involved agencies and impacted stakeholders to ensure that EPA's actions related to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are coordinated accordingly.

Senator Markey:

1. There is tremendous diversity across states in this country, and occasionally states have differences of opinion on how to approach a problem. One of the roles of the federal government is to be an arbiter among states.
- What is your philosophy on how interstate pollution conflicts should be handled?
- Should a state be able to pollute a river for which another state relies on for drinking water?
- What is the EPA's role in resolving interstate pollution conflicts?
- How would you determine when EPA should be involved in interstate pollution disputes?

As I testified in the hearing, I have pursued opportunities to address interstate environmental quality matters. One of the examples I have highlighted is the work that Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel and I took to address an enforceable water quality standard between Arkansas and Oklahoma. I have also discussed how Texas should be responsible when air quality issues affect Oklahoma and my experience with that. When negotiations among and between states breakdown EPA has a role to set environmental standards. However, that is should be a last course of action instead of the first. I believe environmental statutes are designed with states as a primary implementer. Environmental statutes envision that states have the delegated enforcement and primacy to implement and enforce environmental statutes. Only when that is not happening or when negotiations between and among states breakdown should EPA determine a dispute and only after attempting to assist states negotiate a local solution. I am fond of saying that we need national standards and neighborhood solutions. I think that should shape the work of the EPA.

2. During the hearing, you repeatedly underscored the need to make regulation "regular" for regulated entities.
- How do you reconcile that goal with the mission of EPA, which is "to protect human health and the environment"?
- If confirmed as EPA Administrator will your highest priorities be to protect human health and the environment?

As I testified, I believe in the rule of law and that process matters. I do not view these as being contrary to EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

3. Please list any deductible or nondeductible charitable donations you made in the last three years, including, for each contribution, the name of the recipient and the amount.

I have complied with the reporting obligations from the Office of Government Ethics and the EPW Committee.

4. As attorney general, you made Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and expected a fast response. Do you commit to respond to FOIAs as quickly as possible, if you are confirmed?

If confirmed, I will commit to tasking my staff with responding to FOIA requests in a timely manner.

5. During Mr. Trump's campaign, there were reports that even volunteers were required to sign non-disclosure agreements. After his election, President-elect Trump's team demanded lists of career officials who worked on climate science issues at the Energy Department and women's and gender issues at the State Department. It is against the law to retaliate against career officials for following lawful policy directives. It is also against the law to interfere with career employees communicating with Congress. I have included a summary of these laws below.

Any suggestion that the incoming administration is targeting career officials for retaliation simply because they worked on policies that the new President disagrees with threatens to create a chilling effect on employees who are simply trying to do their jobs.

5 U.S.C. § 7211, provides that: The right of employees, individually or collectively, to petition Congress or a Member of Congress. or to furnish information to either House of Congress, or to a committee or Member thereof, may not be interfered with or denied. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8), it is a violation of federal law to retaliate against whistleblowers. That law states: Any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority ... take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, a personnel action with respect to any employee or applicant for employment because of. ... (A) any disclosure of information by an employee or applicant which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences- (i) a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or (ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, any disclosure to the Special Counsel, or to the Inspector General of an agency or another employee designated by the head of the agency to receive such disclosures, of information which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences a violation of any law, rule, or regulation... " In addition, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1505, it is against federal law to interfere with a

Congressional inquiry: Whoever corruptly, or by threats or force, or by any threatening letter or communication influences, obstructs, or impedes or endeavors to influence, obstruct, or impede the due and proper administration of the law under which any pending proceeding is being had before any department or agency of the United States, or the due and proper exercise of the power of inquiry under which any inquiry or investigation is being had by either House, or any committee of either House or any joint committee of the Congress.

- If you are confirmed, will you commit to protect the rights of all career employees of the EPA, including their right to speak with Congress?
- Will you commit to communicate employees' whistleblower rights via email to all EPA employees within a week of being sworn in?

If confirmed, I commit to protecting the rights of all EPA employees and will follow the law.

6. The President-elect appears to be planning to ignore the advice he was given by bipartisan ethics experts to divest himself from his business interests. In the United States, he has hundreds of business interests, which include everything from vineyards, golf courses, hotels and casinos. Some of these interests could be impacted by EPA regulations or enforcement actions – for example, Donald Trump's New Jersey casino flunked air pollution tests, his hotel in Chicago has had a Clean Water Act violation and his New Jersey Golf Club violated the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- Do you commit to ensure that no employee of the EPA is pressured to take - or not take - any regulatory or enforcement action or decision because that action or decision would adversely affect business interests associated with the president-elect or his family?
- Considering that the president-elect has stated he will not release his tax returns anytime soon, how will you know exactly what all of the Trump family interests are without his tax returns?

If confirmed as Administrator, I will take care that all environmental laws enacted by Congress are faithfully executed without regard to identity of the owners of any regulated business that might be affected by such execution of the laws.

7. The following series of questions relate to Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes. As Attorney General of Oklahoma, you were responsible for complying with this law. For your ease of reference, Section 20i is provided below:

74 Okl. St. § 20i (2016)

§ 20i. Legal Representation of Agency or Official of Executive Branch--Contracts

A. An agency or official of the executive branch may obtain legal representation by one or more attorneys by means of one of the following:

1. Employing an attorney as such if otherwise authorized by law;

2. Contracting with the Office of the Attorney General; or

3. If the Attorney General is unable to represent the agency, or official due to a conflict of interest, or the Office of the Attorney General is unable or lacks the personnel or expertise to provide the specific representation required by such agency or official, contracting with a private attorney or attorneys pursuant to this section.

B. When entering into a contract for legal representation by one or more private attorneys, an agency or official of the executive branch shall select an attorney or attorneys from a list of attorneys maintained by the Attorney General. An agency may contract for legal representation with one or more attorneys who are not on the list only when there is no attorney on the list capable of providing the specific representation and only with the approval of the Attorney General. The list shall include any attorney who desires to furnish services to an agency or official of the executive branch and who has filed a schedule of fees for services with and on a form approved by the Attorney General. An agency or official may agree to deviate from the schedule of fees only with the approval of the Attorney General.

C. Before entering into a contract for legal representation by one or more private attorneys, an agency or official of the executive branch shall furnish a copy of the proposed contract to the Attorney General and, if not fully described in the contract, notify the Attorney General of the following:

1. The nature and scope of the representation including, but not limited to, a description of any pending or anticipated litigation or of the transaction requiring representation;

2. The reason or reasons for not obtaining the representation from an attorney employed by the agency or official, if an attorney is employed by the agency or official;

3. The reason or reasons for not obtaining the representation from the Attorney General by contract;

4. The anticipated cost of the representation including the following:

a. the basis for or method of calculation of the fee including, when applicable, the hourly rate for each attorney, paralegal, legal assistant, or other person who will perform services under the contract, and

b. the basis for and method of calculation of any expenses which will be reimbursed by the agency or official under the contract; and

5. An estimate of the anticipated duration of the contract.

D. Before entering into a contract for legal representation by one or more private attorneys where the agency has reason to believe that the case, transaction or matter will equal or exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars ($ 20,000.00) or after employment when it becomes apparent that the case, transaction or matter will equal or exceeds Twenty Thousand Dollars ($ 20,000.00), an agency or official of the executive branch shall obtain the approval of the Attorney General when the total cost, including fees and expenses, of all contracts relating to the same case, transaction, or matter will equal or exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars ($ 20,000.00). Any amendment, modification, or extension of a contract which, had it been a part of the original contract would have required approval by the Attorney General, shall also require approval by the Attorney General.

E. When an agency or official of the executive branch enters into a contract for professional legal services pursuant to this section, the agency shall also comply with the applicable provisions of *Section 85.41 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.*

F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System created pursuant to *Section 1355 et seq. of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes.*

G. The Attorney General shall, on or before February 1 of each year, make a written report on legal representation obtained pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection A of this section. The report shall include a brief description of each contract, the circumstances necessitating each contract, and the amount paid or to be paid under each contract. The report shall be filed with the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Appropriations and Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, and the Chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

•The Oklahoma Governor considers the Office of Attorney General a state agency, and includes the Attorney General on a comprehensive list of Oklahoma state agencies available at https://www.ok.gov/portal/agency.php. Do you agree that the Office of Attorney General is an agency under Oklahoma state law? If not, please explain.

Generally speaking, the Office of Attorney General is a state agency. Whether it is an "agency" for purposes of any particular statute requires an analysis of that statute.

•Subsection G of Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes requires the Attorney General to report annually on any contracts for legal representation that state agencies have entered into with private attorneys over the course of the prior year. For the avoidance of doubt, no exception is provided under Section 20i for contracts for legal representation entered into by the Attorney General with private attorneys. Do you agree that Subsection G of Title 74 Section 20i required

you, as Attorney General, to report contracts for legal representation that you entered into with private attorneys over the course of the prior year? If not, please explain.

No. The purpose of Section 20i, as demonstrated by its text, is to place the Office of Attorney General in the role of approving contracts for outside counsel that other agencies wish to enter into rather than utilizing the services of the Office of Attorney General. Subsection G requires a report be made of contracts entered into "pursuant to this section," as Subsection A(3) makes clear. Because the Office of Attorney General is not required to seek permission from itself "pursuant to" that section of law, it has no applicable contracts to report pursuant to Subsection G. The Office of Attorney General has, however, routinely disclosed contracts it has entered into with outside counsel, when requests for such contracts are made.

•The last fiscal year in which payments from the Office of Attorney General to private attorneys were recorded in the report submitted pursuant to Subsection G of Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes was FY 2011. No payments from the Office of Attorney General to private attorneys were recorded in the reports you filed for FY 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014, or FY 2015. As Oklahoma Attorney General, did you enter into any verbal or written contracts with private attorneys for legal representation (whether or not such contracts provided compensation to private attorneys) other than those listed in the reports you submitted for fiscal years 2011 through 2015? Please provide a brief description of each such contract you entered into, the date you entered into the contract, the circumstances necessitating the contract, and the amount—if any—paid under the contract (including details of any non-monetary benefits that you may have obtained, offered, been offered, or delivered in connection with the contract).

Yes. Such information can be requested from the Office of Attorney General through a request made pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act.

•Subsection B of Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes requires that—when entering into a contract for legal representation by one or more private attorneys—an agency or official of the executive branch must select an attorney or attorneys from a list maintained by the Attorney General. If there are no listed attorneys capable of providing the specific representation, then the agency must obtain the approval of the Attorney General in order to enter into the contract.

○Please describe your process, as Attorney General, for evaluating a request submitted by a state agency to enter into a contract for legal representation by a private attorney not on the approved list. Please provide any documents detailing this process (which you or your staff relied on in making such evaluations) or indicate if this process was undocumented.

- Please provide any documents submitted to you by state agencies requesting approval to enter into a contract for legal representation by a private attorney not on the approved list, as well as your written responses to such requests.
- Please provide any papers documenting decisions made by you or the Office of Attorney General to enter into contracts for legal representation by private attorneys that did not originate with requests submitted to you by state agencies.
- Do you agree that Subsection B of Title 74 Section 20i required you, as Attorney General, to enter into contracts for legal representation only with private attorneys included on the list referred to in that subsection unless there were no listed attorneys capable of providing the specific representation? If not, please explain.

Such information can be requested from the Office of Attorney General through a request made pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act. With regard to your question, because the Office of Attorney General maintains the referenced list, and is authorized to allow representation from attorneys not on the list, the Office of Attorney General plainly has the discretion to allow representation from attorneys not on the list.

Did you—at any time during your term as Attorney General—enter into a written or verbal contract for legal representation (whether compensated or pro bono) by one or more private attorneys not included on the list referenced in Subsection B of Title 74 Section 20i of the Oklahoma Statutes? If so, for each such contract:

- Please provide a brief description of the contract, the circumstances necessitating the contract, and the amount—if any—paid under the contract (including details on any non-monetary benefits that you may have obtained, offered, been offered, or delivered in connection with the contract).
- Please indicate if you entered into the contract with a private attorney not on the approved list because there were no attorneys on the approved list capable of providing the specific representation or for another reason. Please describe the process you followed in reaching a decision to enter into a contract with a private attorney not on the approved list. Please list the attorneys on the approved list that you considered hiring (and deemed incapable of providing the specific representation) before deciding to enter into a contract with a private attorney not on the approved list. For each attorney on the approved list that you considered and rejected, please describe the deficiencies in their capabilities that led you to reject them in favor of a private attorney not on the approved list.

Such information can be requested from the Office of Attorney General through a request made pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act.

•As of January 18, 2017, neither David Rivkin, Jr. (nor any other attorney employed by Baker Hostetler) appeared on the "Approved Attorney List | 20i" accessible on your website at https://www.oag.ok.gov/litigation/1917atty.nsf/wfindatty.html?OpenView.

○Did David Rivkin Jr. represent the State of Oklahoma in its Clean Power Plan case against EPA?

○To the best of your knowledge, did David Rivkin Jr. or Baker Hostetler receive any compensation or funds from any third party in conjunction with this or any other litigation in which it represented the State of Oklahoma on your behalf? If so, please provide the names of any such third parties.

○Did you enter into a written or verbal contract for legal representation (whether compensated or pro bono) with David Rivkin, Jr. of the Washington, D.C.-based law firm Baker Hostetler? If so, please provide:
▪a brief description of the contract;
▪the date you entered into the contract;
▪the circumstances necessitating the contract;
▪the deficiencies in the capabilities of attorneys on your approved list that led you to reject them in favor of David Rivkin Jr.—an attorney not on your approved list; and
▪the amount—if any—paid under the contract (including details on any non-monetary benefits that you may have obtained, offered, been offered, or delivered in connection with the contract).
○Please list any contributions made by David Rivkin Jr. or any employee of Baker Hostetler to you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising, along with the dates of such contributions.

Yes. No. Yes. Information relating to the contract can be requested from the Office of Attorney General through a request made pursuant to Oklahoma's Open Records Act. A full list of contributors to my campaigns for the state senate and attorney general may be found at the Oklahoma Ethics Commission's websites. For state campaign committees from 2002-2014, please use this site: https://www.ok.gov/ethics/public/candidate.php. For 2015 to the present, the Commission uses this site: http://guardian.ok.gov/PublicSite/SearchPages/Search.aspx?SearchTypeCodeHook=1F26BA5E-71EA-48E4-8D50-C1013E9FE0A7. Attached is a letter from the Oklahoma Ethics Commission regarding materials prior to 2002.

•During your term as Attorney General, did you ever enter into an arrangement whereby a private attorney or attorneys represented the State of Oklahoma on your behalf on a pro bono basis while being compensated by a third party? If so, please list the legal matters in which you entered into such arrangements, and, for each matter, the third party or parties that compensated the private attorneys, the amounts paid, and any monetary or non-monetary benefits that you may have

obtained in connection with the arrangement. During your term as Attorney General, did you have a process in place for ensuring that any private attorneys that represented the State of Oklahoma on a pro bono basis did not receive compensation from a third party for the legal services they provided to the state? If so, please describe this process.

No. Our Office would not enter into any such agreement for representation if it believed that the attorney was not truly working pro bono, and the Office would seek assurances from the attorney that they were.

8. The Online Lenders Alliance is "a trade group for online payday and short-term lenders and the companies that steer customers to them," according to a recent Los Angeles Times article describing actions by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers from misleading advertising claims made by certain members of the payday lending industry.

•Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers? If so, please list the amounts and dates of such donations or solicitations.

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

•Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from any company making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers? If so, please list the amounts and dates of such donations or solicitations.

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

•Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from any principal, senior executive, officer, or director of a company making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans? If so, please list the amounts and dates of such donations or solicitations.

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

•Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from any member of the Board of Directors of the Online Lenders Alliance? For your convenience, the members

of the Board of Directors of the Online Lenders Alliance, along with their business affiliations, are listed below. For each of these individuals, please provide the amounts and dates of their donations, or, if you unsuccessfully solicited donations from them, the dates of such solicitations.

- Kim Anderson, Strategic Link Consulting
- Samantha Bentson, Cashland Online
- Kirk Chartier, Enova Financial
- Doug Clark, Axcess Financial
- Mark Curry, MacFarlane Group
- John Dalton, LeadFlash
- Steve Hotz, The Lead Group
- Clive Kinross, MoneyKey
- Glenn McKay, Selling Source, LLC.
- Bart Miller, Centrinex
- Greg Rable, FactorTrust, INC.
- Ken Rees, Elevate
- Walt Wojciechowski, MicroBilt

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

- On June 16, 2015, you, as Attorney General, sent a letter to Richard Cordray, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (hereinafter, "CFPB"), expressing concerns about certain rules the CFPB proposed to regulate payday, vehicle title, and installment lending.

  - Was the text of this letter partially or substantially drafted by the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers?
  - Did the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers participate in the drafting of this letter in any other way? If so, please explain.
  - Did you ask the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term loans to consumers review or provide comments on a draft of this letter before it was sent? If so, please provide any records related to your outreach.
  - Did the Online Lenders Alliance or any other trade, industry, advocacy, or other group representing companies making payday, title, installment, or short-term

loans to consumers review or provide comments on a draft of this letter before it was sent? If so, please provide any communications between you or your office and any such group regarding this letter.

As far as I am aware, no as to all.

9. The Consumer Federation of America is an association of non-profit consumer organizations devoted to advancing the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.

- Did you ask the Consumer Federation of America or any other interest or advocacy group representing Oklahoma's consumers review or provide comments on a draft of this letter before it was sent? If so, please provide any records related to your outreach.
- Did the Consumer Federation of America or any other interest or advocacy group representing Oklahoma's consumers review or provide comments on a draft of this letter before it was sent? If so, please provide any communications between you or your office and any such group regarding this letter.

As far as I am aware, no as to all.

10. As you may know, Oklahoma has one of the highest usage rates for payday loans in the country and allows payday lenders to charge consumers interest rates of up to 390 percent on annual basis for a 14-day term loan. In November 2016, the CFPB reported that consumers in Oklahoma submitted debt collection complaints at a rate of 36 percent (higher than the 27 percent national average). In addition, the CFPB found that average monthly complaints from Oklahomans increased 17 percent from August through October 2015 (higher than the national rate of 13 percent).

- Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from the Consumer Federation of America or any other interest or advocacy group representing Oklahoma's consumers? If so, please list the amounts and dates of such donations or solicitations.
- Have you, your campaign, or any organizations or entities for which you engaged in fundraising ever received or solicited donations from any member of the Board of Directors of the Consumer Federation of America? If so, please provide the amounts and dates of their donations, or, if you unsuccessfully solicited donations from them, the dates of such solicitations.

I am not aware of any such solicitations or donations.

11. You have pursued at least twenty legal actions against the EPA on clean water, clean air and climate change related regulations, including multiple lawsuits that are ongoing. You have additionally criticized the EPA and its scientists on a range of scientific facts and regulations that aim to protect public health.

- Please identify EPA regulations or standards that you do support in their current form.
- In many of your legal actions and activities as Oklahoma AG, you have endorsed positions or signed letters that were drafted by oil and gas industry paid lobbyists. Please identify areas in which your views differ significantly from those of the oil and gas industry?

When negotiations among and between states breakdown EPA has a role to set environmental standards. However, that should be a last course of action instead of the first. I believe environmental statutes are designed with states as a primary implementer. Environmental statutes envision that states have the delegated enforcement and primacy to implement and enforce environmental statutes. Only when that is not happening or when negotiations between and among states breakdown should EPA determine a dispute and only after attempting to assist states negotiate a local solution. I am fond of saying that we need national standards and neighborhood solutions. I think that should shape the work of the EPA. As I also testified at the hearing, when it was appropriate to pursue legal actions or settlement negotiations specifically with the oil and natural gas industry I have done so. When considering new regulations on oil and natural gas production and practices, I have joined other co-regulators in Oklahoma advocating those changes.

12.Your Ethics Agreement states that for a one-year period, you "***will*** seek authorization to participate personally and substantially in particular matters involving specific parties in which I know the State of Oklahoma is a party or represents a party."

- Why does this language assume that you "will" seek authorizations for all such instances?
- Why is your recusal limited to a one-year period, when in some cases the "particular matters" will not be resolved within that timeframe?
- Will you commit to recusing yourself from participating in all such particular matters, without requesting or receiving a waiver, until the matter is fully resolved? If not, why not?
- These 'particular matters' are all litigation in which your Ethics Agreement contemplates you switching from plaintiff in your capacity as Attorney General of Oklahoma (in which you were a principal decision-maker on the part of those litigating against EPA), to defendant as EPA Administrator (in which you would be the principal decision-maker on the response to the lawsuit you filed). Why do

you not believe this creates an unresolvable conflict of interests that makes it impossible for you to properly, lawfully and ethically represent the interests of the EPA, while simultaneously upholding your professional duty to your former client, the State of Oklahoma?

My Ethics Agreement was drafted in close consultation with ethics experts at the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials, and reflects a diligent effort to ensure that I seek authorization before participating in any matter involving specific parties in which I know the State of Oklahoma is a party or represents a party for one year after my resignation as Oklahoma Attorney General. I believe you may be misreading the language in my Ethics Agreement regarding prior authorization. If, during the relevant time period, I would like to consider participating in a particular matter involving specific parties in which I know the State of Oklahoma is a party or represents a party, I will seek advance authorization to do so. With respect to my professional obligations as a member of the bar, I am not permitted to "switch sides" as counsel in any matter in which I participated as a lawyer. The standards that would apply to me as EPA Administrator are different, however, as I will not be representing the EPA as a lawyer if I am confirmed.

13. During the hearing, you refused to unequivocally recuse yourself from litigation that you brought against the EPA, repeatedly stating that you would follow the direction of agency ethics officials' guidance in this area on a case-by-case basis. Isn't it true that if you are confirmed, the agency ethics officials that you are referring to will report to you, and this reporting relationship could be perceived to have the potential to influence the guidance they provide you with? In light of this, will you commit to the modification of your Ethics Agreement, using your own discretion and authority to do so and prior to any vote on your confirmation, in order to provide more clarity about your intentions for recusal related to each matter involving specific parties in which the State of Oklahoma is a party? If not, why not?

My Ethics Agreement was drafted in close consultation with ethics experts at the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials, and reflects a diligent effort to ensure I comply with all applicable federal ethics rules. I will abide by the commitment I made in that letter. I am confident in the former staff of the EPA and have no reason to believe they will give me anything other than their best advice on ethics matters. Moreover, not all officials who may consider a request for authorization to participate in a matter will necessarily report to me. Before participating in matters involving specific parties in which I am concerned where there may be a question regarding my impartiality, I would expect, where they deem it appropriate, that EPA ethics officials may consult with ethics experts at OGE before making a recommendation.

14.I am attaching a January 17, 2017 letter from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) and a January 18, 2017 letter from The Campaign Legal Center (CLC), both sent to the EPA Designated Agency Ethics Official, for the record and for your review. The CREW letter references several factors related to your refusal to unequivocally recuse yourself from participating in any of these matters as EPA Administrator that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts "to question his [your] impartiality in these matters" and "to question the integrity of the agency's programs and operations." The CLC letter states that "the plan described in his [your] ethics agreement is insufficient to avoid actual or apparent conflicts of interest, and would cause members of the public to question his impartiality in the conduct of his [your] duties, contrary to his [your] obligation to "ensure that every citizen can have complete confidence in the integrity of the Federal Government.""

- The CREW letter states that ethics regulations demand your recusal from participating personally and substantially as Administrator in particular matters involving specific parties in which the State of Oklahoma is a party, even if the State of Oklahoma withdraws from the matter. Do you agree to make such a recusal for each such matter, even if the State of Oklahoma withdraws from the matter? If not, why not?

- The CREW letter states that "there would be serious and apparent conflicts leading to reasonable doubts about Mr. Pruitt's impartiality if he were to participate in these lawsuits as EPA Administrator *at any point* in their lifetime. It is therefore essential that Mr. Pruitt's recusals last through the full course of each matter." Do you agree to recuse yourself for the full course of each matter involving specific parties in which the State of Oklahoma is a party? If not, why not?

- The CREW letter states that any waiver request you might make from recusal from any of these matters "should be denied based on consideration of the relevant factors listed under" 5 C.F.R. 2635.502(d). Do you agree not to request a waiver from recusal from any such matter? If not, why don't you agree with the analysis of the factors listed in the regulations as they apply to your past litigation history against the Agency that CREW described in the letter should result in a denial of the waiver request?

As discussed above, my Ethics Agreement was drafted in close consultation with ethics experts at the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials, and reflects a diligent effort to ensure I comply with all applicable federal ethics rules. If confirmed, I will ask relevant federal ethics officials to fully review the issues raised in the CREW letter and, if appropriate, take them into account in determining the proper legal course of action in particular instances.

15. Some of the legal cases that you brought against the agency remain open, and there may be legal decisions that require EPA regulatory action as they are resolved; for example, a court could uphold the EPA regulation and require it to be enforced, or a court could direct such a regulation's revision. Since such regulatory actions would be a direct consequence of the litigation, any conflict of interests associated with your participating in the legal matter should extend to any EPA regulatory or enforcement action taken as a result of court action on the litigation. Do you agree to recuse yourself without waiver and for the entirety of your tenure at the EPA from all such regulatory or enforcement actions that are taken as a result of court action on a specific legal matter from which you were recused? If not, why not?

As EPA Administrator I will recuse from participation in litigation in matters in which I represented the State of Oklahoma, unless I receive informed consent from the State of Oklahoma and the permission of relevant federal ethics officials. It is my understanding that recusal obligations do not extend to regulatory rulemaking of general applicability, which does not create a conflict under applicable rules.

16. If you are confirmed, you will also have the ability to accomplish through *regulation* as EPA Administrator what you have been seeking to accomplish through *litigation* as Attorney General. For example, instead of waiting for a court to decide whether to grant your lawsuit's request to overturn EPA's smog standard, you could start to write a regulation to do just that on your very first day on the job. Will you commit to recuse yourself from working on the revision or elimination of any *regulation* regarding issues on which you have sued the EPA? If not, why not?

It is my understanding under federal ethics rules that regulatory rulemaking of general applicability does not create a conflict.

17. I am also attaching, for the record and for your review, the Ethics Agreement signed by Carol Browner, former EPA Administrator during the Clinton Administration. In her Ethics Agreement, she agreed to recuse herself from participating "personally and substantially in any EPA matter which involves the State of Florida as a specific party and in which I was personally and substantially involved as Secretary, Department of Environmental Regulations, State of Florida". I note that this agreement was not limited to one year in duration and not subject to waivers. I am also attaching, for the record and for your review, the Obama Administration Ethics Pledge that each nominee agreed to uphold, which states, in part, "I will not for a period of 2 years from the date of my appointment participate in any particular matter involving specific parties that is directly and substantially related to my former employer or former clients, including regulations and contracts." If the response to any part of questions 2, 3 or 4 is no, please

also explain why in light of the stronger Ethics Agreements and pledges made by past EPA Administrators?

I am not familiar with the facts and circumstances surrounding Ms. Browner's Ethics Agreement. In my Ethics Agreement, which was drafted in close consultation with ethics experts at the Office of Government Ethics and EPA ethics officials, I agreed to abide by federal regulations that require my recusal from particular matters involving specific parties in which the State of Oklahoma is a party for a period of one year after my resignation as Attorney General, unless I receive a waiver. I will abide by the commitment in that letter, in addition to any other obligations imposed by the Trump Administration as well as my obligations as a member of the bar.

18. In addition to your participation in specific litigation and regulatory matters that raise conflicts of interests, there may be pending enforcement matters at EPA in which donors to you or your political action committees are the subjects. For example, records indicate that Tyson Foods has been the subject of an EPA Clean Air Act enforcement action[3] and reportedly "faces an ongoing criminal investigation by the EPA for its release of toxic pollutants into waterways".[4] Do you commit to recusing yourself from participation in any enforcement matter in which the subject is an entity that has previously made a donation to you or any of your political action committees? If not, why not?

I will consult with relevant federal ethics officials to determine whether to participate in a particular matter.

19. *Miss. Comm'n on Envtl. Quality v. EPA*, 790 F.3d 138 (D.C. Cir. 2015) stated that "Decisionmakers violate the Due Process Clause and must be disqualified . . . when they act with an 'unalterably closed mind.'" One of your filings stated that the agency's record "does not support EPA's findings that mercury, non-mercury HAP metals, and acid gas HAPs pose public health hazards." Do you have an "unalterably closed mind" on the question of whether mercury and acid gas HAPs pose public health hazards? If not, please explain your current view on this question.

As I stated in my testimony to the committee, all legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in my capacity as an advocate. If confirmed as Administrator, I will consider all

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[3] https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/tyson-foods-inc

[4] http://www.meatpoultry.com/articles/news_home/Business/2016/08/Tyson_investors_call_for_envir.aspx?ID=%7B4E28BCD7-045D-489C-8A41-48A6DDDBE99F%7D&cck=1

matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

20. Section 301(a) of the Clean Air Act prohibits the Administrator from delegating authority over many regulatory proceedings. To the extent that you are recused from participating in such decisions, who could lawfully make them?

If I am recused from participating in a matter, the Federal Vacancies Reform Act and other federal law provide a mechanism for another EPA official to perform such functions in an acting capacity. Under current policy, the EPA Deputy Administrator would typically serve this function.

21.Each case in which you litigated on behalf of your former client requested that the court compel EPA to take a specific action; for example, one pending suit asks a court to compel EPA to maintain the ozone standard at 75 ppb instead of lowering it to 70 ppb. A court may direct EPA to take specific actions as these cases are resolved, which will require changes to EPA regulations. Moreover, as EPA Administrator, you could simply direct the Agency to amend its regulations to do the very thing your lawsuit asked a court to do in the first place. This also creates an unresolvable conflict of interests.

- Will you recuse yourself, without waiver and for the entirety of your tenure as EPA Administrator, from any agency proceedings that a) directly result from the resolution of or b) are related to the "particular matters" that your Ethics Agreement agrees you should be recused from? If not, why not, and why do you not believe that such agency proceedings would be covered by your recusal under the applicable Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch?

As EPA Administrator I will recuse from participation in litigation in matters in which I represented the State of Oklahoma, unless I receive informed consent from the State of Oklahoma and the permission of relevant federal ethics officials. I understand that this does not extend to regulatory rulemaking of general applicability, which would not create a conflict under applicable rules.

22. Our oceans are essential for life, and much of what happens on land ultimately ends up in our oceans. There are many ways in which our actions on land can both positively and negatively affect marine life and the marine environment. Under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), the EPA ensures that harmful substances are not dumped into the

marine environment. Additionally, reducing ocean pollution is a global goal in which the U.S. is an active participant.

- In your opinion, what role does the EPA have in protecting our oceans and the marine life within?
- How specifically will the EPA, under your administration, ensure that harmful manmade substances do not end up in our oceans?
- How will the EPA continue to ensure the U.S. is a leader in reducing ocean pollution, and assisting other countries in reducing pollution that makes it into our oceans?

If confirmed, I will carry out the authorities and responsibilities given to EPA by Congress. These include responsibilities under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

23.The greenhouse gas effect traps outgoing longwave radiation causing a radiative imbalance of Earth, ultimately leading to the warming of the globe. The fundamental physics of climate change are well settled.

- Are you aware of the theory of radiative balance of the Earth? Can you briefly describe it?
- Do you understand Planck's law and the difference between shortwave vs. longwave radiation, and how that relates to Earth's energy balance?
- Do you agree that disturbances to this equilibrium can warm or cool the Earth?
- Are you aware of the atmospheric circulation and oceanic currents that transport heat from the Equator to the poles?
- Due to the complexity of the climate system, there are lag times between changes in certain conditions, such as the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and other observable changes, such as the temperature of the deep ocean. If an action by the United States or world today, could positively or negative benefit the future, say 50 to 100 years down the road, is that an important consideration?
- Are you aware that there is less ice on land in such places as Antarctica and Greenland than in previous years since the Industrial Revolution? What do you believe is causing this decrease in mass of ice on land?
- To where do you believe the water from ice melt on land goes, and do you believe that could cause global sea levels to rise?
- Do you disagree that additional greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, will cause a smaller magnitude outgoing longwave radiation to escape to space? Please explain.
- Do you disagree that the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil or natural gas, cause carbon dioxide to be released into the atmosphere? Please explain.
- Do you disagree that if fossil fuels were not extracted and burned, less carbon dioxide would be released into the atmosphere? Please explain.
- Therefore, is it possible, if not probable, that humans releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere could cause more heat to be trapped by the atmosphere? Please explain.

•Do you understand that the concept address is the previous question is the basis of human-caused climate change? Please explain.
•If not human burning of fossil fuels, how do you explain the observed increase in carbon dioxide in atmosphere?
•What is a safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere? Please provide this number in parts per million. Please explain.
•If states want to individually take measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions will you allow them to do so? If yes, how will you support them? If not, why does the EPA have the authority to stop a state from implementing measures to curb greenhouse gases?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that any regulatory actions are based on the most up to date and objective scientific data, including the ever-evolving understanding of the impact increasing greenhouse gases have on our changing climate. I will also adhere to the applicable statutory authorities to fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment consistent with the process and rule of law established by congress. I also believe the Administrator has an important role when it comes to the regulation of carbon dioxide, which I will fulfill consistent with *Massachusetts v. EPA* and the agency's Endangerment Finding on Greenhouse Gases respective of the applicable statutory framework established by Congress. I believe the most effective path towards achieving these objectives is through close partnership with the states granting them regulatory leeway as ascribed by the rule of law.

24. If states want to individually take measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions will you allow them to do so? If yes, how will you support them? If not, why does the EPA have the authority to stop a state from implementing measures to curb greenhouse gases?

Yes, states are free to pursue regulatory measures to address greenhouse gas emissions under state legal authority.

25.A recently released report by *Solar Power Rocks* gave Oklahoma a grade of "F" and found that the "solar industry has been stymied at every turn."
•The length of return for a 5-kilowatt solar array installation is 16 years in Oklahoma, compared to the just 4 years in Massachusetts. Why do you believe that is the case?
•In 2014, the Oklahoma legislature passed legislation putting a surcharge on rooftop solar. Do you support this? Why or why not?

I am not familiar with "lengths of return" or the potential differences in such lengths of return between states, and thus have no opinion as to the cause

of any such differences. I am not familiar with the legislation you reference, and have formulated no opinion with regard to the wisdom of it as a matter of Oklahoma policy.

26. Last week, in his nomination hearing, Rex Tillerson dismissed the importance of America being energy independent. If you are confirmed as EPA Administrator, you will oversee tailpipe standards for cars and SUVs and the renewable fuel standard, two important polices that support energy independence by reducing oil consumption in America. In your view, should achieving energy independence be a priority for America?

As Congress indicated in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, domestic production of renewable fuel contributes to our nation's "greater energy independence and security." Our energy independence will best be achieved by an "all-of-the-above" strategy without the government picking winners and losers. Setting motor vehicle emissions standards is a complex task that requires careful balancing of several competing factors. Setting such standards also requires coordination with NHTSA, which continues to administer the CAFE program. I will consider the relevant factors carefully and will coordinate closely with NHTSA on any motor vehicle emissions standards that will be addressed during my tenure if I am confirmed as Administrator.

27.A cornerstone of science is impartiality and following the facts. This is what has allowed the United States to be a world leader in science.

- Do you commit to allowing EPA scientists to do their jobs and not interfere with their science?
- How will you ensure that scientists, such as those employed by EPA, are allowed to continue their work unimpeded by potential challenges due to their topic of research?
- Do you agree that only scientists and technical experts, not impeded by political influence, should edit scientific work? If not, why?
- In your opinion, what is the role that a public affairs office has in editing any potential publically available statement or information?
- Do you pledge that your all of your work as EPA Administrator will be guided by the best available science?
- Do you commit to maintaining EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy regardless of research area?

If confirmed, it will be a privilege to work with EPA scientists and the thousands of other public servants at EPA. I have no first-hand knowledge of the role of the public affairs office as referenced in the question and, if confirmed, I expect to learn more about the office. Indeed, I fully believe, as former EPA administrators have stated, that sound, objective science must

serve as "the backbone" of EPA actions. I have no first-hand knowledge of the specific scientific integrity policy referenced in the question and, if confirmed, I commit to thoroughly reviewing the policy and to follow applicable laws and federal guidance regarding scientific integrity, information quality, and transparency.

28.It has been reported by *Wired* that President-elect Trump plans to undo President Obama's June 2013 Climate Action Plan, and remove materials from EPA websites. While we understand revising policies from administration to administration, the reports of removing environmental data from EPA websites is troubling. Will you commit to keeping environmental records, data, and records provided as part of previous rulemakings publically available on the EPA's website?

- Will you commit to ensuring that any current publically available dataset remains available and easy to access? If not, please explain.
- Will you ensure that all data interpretation tools available on the EPA website remain publically available and easy to access? If not, please explain.

I have not been briefed on any changes to the EPA website following the transfer of power from the Obama Administration to the Trump Administration. That being said, I commit to reviewing the materials that are included on the EPA site if I am confirmed.

*29.*I have heard that EPA's Fiscal Year 2018 budget request may include a 17% budget cut. . I am troubled by this reported planned cut to EPA budget and urge you to reconsider this drastic move. Will you maintain robust funding for scientific research at EPA, and to ensure that environmental data continues to be collected?

I have no first-hand knowledge of EPA's development of its FY 2018 budget request. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the limited resources appropriated to EPA by Congress are managed wisely in pursuit of that important mission and in accordance with all applicable legal authorities.

30.Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) now provides more than half of the United States oil output. In 2000, fracking provided less than 2% of America oil. This has dramatically changed the energy landscape of the United States.

- Do you believe that hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) is the cause of the increased frequency and strength of earthquakes in Oklahoma? Please explain.
- As Attorney General have you taken any actions related to earthquakes caused by fracking?
- In May 2016, you testified that the decline in the coal industry was due to the price drop of natural gas and not EPA regulation. Do you stand by this statement? If not, why have your views changed?

•Do you believe that fracking can contaminate drinking water supplies? Please explain.

Scientists from the state level up to the National Research Council have found that the act of hydraulic fracturing itself poses very little risk of creating seismic events. Seismicity concerns related to the oil and natural gas industries are more commonly tied to the underground injection of wastewater which is regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. As I stated in my testimony, in Oklahoma the Corporation Commission has jurisdiction over this matter and I have been in contact with that agency that has taken very meaningful steps to address seismic concerns. I believe that there is not one single factor that has precipitated the decline in the coal industry alone. Finally, I agree with EPA's Dr. Thomas Burke who, following the release of EPA's final hydraulic fracturing water study, reiterated that the Agency only found a small number of confirmed cases of contamination. With well over one million wells that have been hydraulically fractured in the United States the evidence found by EPA suggests a very low likelihood of drinking water contamination from hydraulic fracturing or its associated activates.

31.This past December, the EPA released a report entitled, "Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas: Impacts from the Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle on Drinking Water Resources in the United States." The EPA found scientific evidence that fracking activities can affect drinking water supplies.
•Have you read this report?
•What steps will you take as Administrator to reduce the possibility of drinking water contamination due to hydraulic fracturing activities?
•Of those chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing activities, the EPA found that nearly 200 might pose a public health risk. Will you commit to continuing to study these identified chemicals and the potential health risks, as well as identify other potential harmful chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing activities?

I am familiar with the report and if confirmed as EPA Administrator I will faithfully execute my legal duties to administer laws as authorized by Congress including the Safe Drinking Water Act. Understanding and studying risks to local communities is something central to the role as Administrator and I will continue to study potential risk using the Agencies many tools.

32.Do you agree the Clean Air Act health benefits significantly outweigh costs? For example, a peer-reviewed study found that in 2010 alone the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, which reduced fine particulate pollution and ozone, avoided more than 160,000 premature deaths, 130,000 heart attacks, prevented 13 million missed workdays, and avoided 3.2 million missed school days by children.

Based on the limited information provided, it is unclear as to the specific study referenced. However, as I indicated in my testimony, I am incredibly proud of the progress the U.S. has made to provide public health protections and improve our environmental stewardship while also growing our economy. If confirmed, I commit to continue this progress and protect the American people through commonsense and lawful regulations.

33.According to the Consumer Reports National Research Center survey completed in June 2016, 84 percent of Americans feel that automakers should continue to improve fuel economy for all vehicle types. About three-quarters of survey respondents specifically indicated that the U.S. government should require vehicle manufacturers to improve the fuel economy of their vehicles over time. As you may know, when the government stopped increasing fuel economy standards for two decades in the mid-1980s, vehicle fuel economy stopped improving. Now that we are once again making progress, what will you do to make sure that vehicle fuel economy continues to improve as Americans expect?

While the EPA regulates emissions under the Clean Air Act, it is true that Congress vested authority to regulate fuel economy through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards" framework set forth originally in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. Congress vested responsibility for the CAFE program in the Department of Transportation, not the EPA; accordingly, I take no position on Congress's policy decision on this subject, or on the Department of Transportation's administration of the CAFE program. If confirmed as EPA Administration, I would administer the Clean Air Act in accordance with the terms of the Act, including Congress's statutory policy objectives, and would do so on the basis of the factual record in any given proceeding.

34.After conducting its Midterm Evaluation of fuel economy standards for model years 2022 through 2025, the EPA determined that automakers were well-positioned to meet the standards at lower costs than previously estimated. In fact, the EPA chose to retain the current standards to provide regulatory certainty for the auto industry despite a technical record suggesting that standards could be made more stringent.

Among the technologies that the EPA considered in reaching its determination that fuel economy standards could be readily achieved were so-called “off-cycle technologies.” Off-cycle technologies are innovations such as more efficient air conditioning through enhanced window glass that reduces solar load, stop-start systems, solar panels, active aerodynamics, and adaptive cruise control. By reducing the energy demands placed on the engine, these technologies serve to improve fuel economy and reduce tailpipe emissions of carbon pollution. Vehicle manufacturers may claim “off-cycle credits” for these carbon pollution-reducing technologies which may have benefits not adequately captured as part the

standard fuel economy testing procedures.

Americans in Massachusetts, Ohio, Tennessee, North Carolina, Michigan, Indiana and across the country have good-paying jobs that depend on vehicle manufacturers continuing to demand these innovative technologies.

In your hearing, you explained how important it is for the EPA to consider jobs and economic impacts as part of its analysis and decision-making. If confirmed, would you support the "off-cycle credit" mechanism included that the EPA included in its fuel economy standards—a mechanism that drives American innovation and job growth? If not, please explain your position.

If confirmed, my job as Administrator would be to administer the statutes that Congress has enacted, including the statutory objectives that Congress incorporates into those statutes. If Congress chooses to enact legislation to promote certain technologies, such as "off-cycle" vehicle technologies, then those statutory priorities would fall within the EPA Administrator's responsibility. If confirmed, I would look forward to working with Congress on any such statutory proposals that it legislates.

35. Is the carbon dioxide that comes out of car tailpipes physically or chemically different from the carbon dioxide that comes out of power plant smokestacks? If so, how?

As a matter of law, Congress elected to enact different statutory frameworks for regulating emissions from stationary sources and mobile sources: Title I of the Clean Air Act for the former, Title II for the latter. As the Supreme Court recognized in Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA (2013), these two frameworks have significant differences.

36. Would the impact on the climate system of carbon dioxide from power plants be any different from that of carbon dioxide from tailpipe emissions? If so, in what way?

As noted above, Congress elected to enact different statutory frameworks for regulating emissions from stationary sources and mobile sources: Title I of the Clean Air Act for the former, Title II for the latter. As the Supreme Court recognized in Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA (2013), these two frameworks have significant differences.

37. Do you agree that the power sector and the transportation sectors each contribute at least a quarter of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions?

According to the EPA (https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions), in 2014 electricity generation accounted for 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions (quantified in terms of metric tons of CO2 equivalent), and transportation accounted for 26%.

38.Congress established protections for the air in national parks and wilderness areas in the Clean Air Act amendments of 1977. The quality of the air in New England parks like Cape Cod national seashore and Acadia national park suffers from pollution blown in from elsewhere. Last summer you joined other Attorneys General in comments objecting to the EPA's amendments to the Regional Haze Rule. Given your previous objection, if confirmed as EPA administrator, what will you do to fulfill the 40-year directive from Congress to protect and restore the air quality of national parks like Cape Cod and Acadia even if it requires states from outside the region to reduce their air pollution?

As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, I agree that the Clean Air Act gives EPA an important role in addressing interstate pollution issues, among many other things. All legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in my capacity as an advocate. If confirmed, I will consider all matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

39.The 1977 Clean Air Act amendments also provide a role for federal land managers in protecting the air quality of national parks and wilderness areas. If confirmed as EPA Administrator, how will you make sure that EPA honors the obligations federal land managers have under the Clean Air Act and that their expertise is incorporated into the policies necessary to achieve the goal of natural air quality?

I am confirmed, I will exercise my authority consistent with Congress's intent in enacting the Act. This includes acting transparently in a manner that takes into account the views of the federal land managers where the Act calls for their views, such as in assessing visibility impacts from new major sources in the preconstruction permitting process.

40.When Congress passed the original Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) in 2005, "inadequate domestic supply" and "severe harm" to the economy were the only conditions under which the general waiver authority allowing the EPA to waive the RFS could be invoked. Despite this clear direction from Congress, in its 2014-2015-2016 final Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO), EPA used "available refueling infrastructure" as a condition to waive the standard even though Congress expressly rejected it. Do you believe that EPA's use of this reason for

granting a waiver in the 2014-2015-2016 RVO is consistent with Congressional intent and the law?

As I stated at my hearing, I believe the EPA Administrator should use its waiver authority judiciously and not to undermine or question the commitments made by Congress when enacting the RFS.

41.The Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) is one of our country's most important tools to reduce carbon pollution from the transportation sector. The 2007 amendments to the RFS included increasing volumes of cellulosic and advanced biofuels. If confirmed, will you increase the blending targets for cellulosic and advanced biofuels, including biodiesel, given Congressional intent? What role can EPA play to facilitate the expansion of cellulosic and advanced biofuels, including biodiesel?

Section 211(0) of the Clean Air Act contains enumerated tables of applicable target volumes of renewable fuel, specifically cellulosic and advanced, for calendar years 2006 through 2022. As I indicated in my nomination hearing, it is not the job of the Administrator of the EPA to do anything other than administer the program according to the intent of Congress. If confirmed, I will work to administer this program in accordance with statute and Congressional intent.

42.In response to an Inspector General report, the EPA announced in August that it would update the estimates of carbon pollution reduction from renewable fuels. If confirmed as Administrator, will you commit to completing this update and using the best available commercial and scientific information, including a recent USDA report on the emissions profile of renewable fuels?

I have not had an opportunity to review the referenced report, but, if confirmed, I will review it.

43.In a response to a Renewable Fuels Standard question, you stated during the hearing that "we have less consumption today." Please provide the annual U.S. consumption of gasoline since 2005 as well as forecasts for 2017 and 2018. Is U.S. consumption of gasoline declining or increasing?

In the course of my nomination hearing, I referenced market conditions that have changed since 2005, when the initial RFS program was enacted. When the program was updated in 2007, Congress could not predict how the

market conditions would further change, from decreased consumption to more fuel-efficient vehicles, and therefore provided the Administrator with the ability to waive certain provisions contained in the Act. As I stated at my hearing, I do not believe the EPA Administrator should use this waiver authority to undermine the commitments made by Congress when enacting the RFS.

44.EPA set out to reduce mercury, arsenic, and other toxic chemicals from coal and oil-fired power plans through a rule that you sued to block. Power plants account for half of the mercury emissions in the United States and EPA's Mercury and Air Toxins Standards rule could save up to 11,000 lives and save $90 billion on health costs each and every year across the United States.

•The World Health Organization states that mercury has a toxic effect on humans, and in particular poses a significant threat to child development. Do you agree that mercury is a toxic substance and exposure to it should be limited? Please explain.

•Most people are exposed to mercury from eating fish and shellfish. Do you agree that we should take appropriate steps that reduce the amount of mercury in fish and shellfish? Please explain.

As I stated in my testimony before the Committee, mercury is appropriately regulated as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. If I am confirmed as Administrator, I will regulate under Section 112 in a manner that is consistent with Congress's intent in enacting that provision. I will also faithfully administer other federal statutes that regulate mercury to the extent that they are under my jurisdiction, including the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act of 1996, the Clean Water Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

45.Donald Trump recently bemoaned "you're not allowed to use hair spray anymore because it affects the ozone." Hairspray is still available for sale, just without the chemical responsible for the ozone hole.

The ozone hole was first discovered in the mid-1980s. The world quickly came together to address the ozone hole through the Montreal Protocol. Actions were taken prior to confirmation of the hypothesis that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) due to human emissions, that chemical Donald Trump alluded to in his statement, to address the ozone hole. The treaties to address the ozone hole were the first universally ratified treaties in the history of the United Nations.
•Do you agree with the overwhelming scientific evidence that CFCs are the cause of the historic depletion of the ozone layer? If not, why not?

•Do you consider the "Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" to be a success? If not, why not?
•Considering the success of the world coming together to solve an environmental problem in that instance, do you believe that such a framework could be used as an example to solve other global environmental problems? If not, why not?

I consider the Montreal Protocol to be a successful example of the world coming together to solve an important environmental problem and that the Montreal Protocol could serve as an example to the President as he exercises his foreign affairs powers and to the Senate as it considers ratification of any treaty that may come before it.

46.Mr. Pruitt, you have repeatedly sued EPA to overturn regulations that seek to protect Americans from the effects of soot, ozone, greenhouse gases, mercury, arsenic and other air pollutants. These toxic air pollutants are often blown east from large industrial and energy sources in the Midwest, particularly impacting air quality and public health from Maine and Massachusetts to the Smoky Mountains.

•EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, which provides independent scientific advice to EPA on its air pollution standards, said that ozone causes a "decrease in lung function, increase in respiratory symptoms, and increase in airway inflammation." Do you agree with this scientific conclusion? Please explain.

•EPA projected that its final Cross State Air Pollution Rule would avoid up to 34,000 premature deaths, 15,000 non-fatal heart attacks and 400,000 asthma attacks – every year. Do you agree with this conclusion? Please explain.

•The EPA concluded that the health effects associated with fine soot particles include premature death, more ER visits and increased frequency of chronic respiratory disease. Do you agree with this conclusion? Please explain.

As I stated in my testimony to the committee, all legal positions that I took in my capacity as Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma were in my capacity as an advocate. If confirmed as Administrator, I will consider all matters presented to me with an open mind and will work to reach conclusions that are reflected in the administrative record of each matter and that comport with Congress's intent in enacting the Act.

47.Lead is not just a problem in Flint, Michigan, but all over the United States including Oklahoma. In your capacity as Attorney General of Oklahoma, what did you and your office do to prevent childhood lead exposure?

While I am concerned about children's health, matters of the sort you reference would be handled by Oklahoma's environmental regulators at the

Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

48. During your confirmation hearing before the Environment and Public Works Committee, in response to a question, you indicated that you did not know if there is a safe level of lead. Scientific experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization, among other leading scientific bodies have repeatedly warned of the dangers of lead, specifically to children, concluding that there is no level of lead exposure that is safe.

- Do you agree that exposure to lead is dangerous and that no level of exposure should be considered safe?

- If confirmed, will you commit to making reducing childhood lead exposure a priority?
- What specific strategies will you implement to reduce lead exposure?
- Will you advocate for more funding for the programs that reduce lead exposure risk, especially in children?

I have not myself reviewed the scientific studies correlating blood lead levels to impacts in children. However, it is my understanding that neither EPA nor CDC have identified a "safe" level of exposure, but instead have adopted levels appropriate for action under their specific statutory authorities. If confirmed I will carry out EPA's authorities to reduce exposure to lead, including exposures by children.

49. The EPA is tasked with implemented the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and ensuring that the drinking water supply for many Americans is safe. Given the Flint, Michigan drinking water crisis, many Americans that took clean water for granted are now being faced with questions about a basic necessity.
- The Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, or WIIN Act, passed Congress was signed by the President, and became public law on December 12, 2016. Will you commit to, as expedient as practicable, implementing the changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act?
- The human-caused drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan has highlighted the widespread concern of lead in drinking water pipes across the nation. Additionally, nearly 4 million Americans may be unknowingly drinking unsafe water. Are you aware of how many public water systems in the United States have issues with lead in drinking water above safe levels?
- If a public official knowingly exposes their community to dangerous levels of contaminants, such as lead, should that official be held accountable for such actions? What do you think are acceptable punishments for such an action?
- If confirmed as EPA Administrator, what will you do to ensure that communicates across America have safe drinking water that is not contaminated with lead?

If confirmed I will fully implement the changes to the Safe Drinking Water regulatory requirements made by the WIIN Act, including the changes to the notification requirements relating to lead levels in drinking water. If funding is provided, I will also implement the assistance programs authorized in that Act. I also will fully implement the existing authorities under the SDWA, including, as appropriate, EPA's authority to take emergency action. If confirmed I will seek a briefing from EPA staff on the number of public water systems that are not in compliance with the SDWA Lead and Copper Rule. I am unaware of EPA authorities to punish individuals other than to seek the resignation of responsible EPA officials, such as the resignation of the former Regional Administrator of EPA Region 5 who resigned after her failure to act upon information regarding the lead levels in the Flint water system became public.

50.The updated Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires that EPA evaluate the risks to "potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations" and take action to protect these subpopulations from all identified risks. Do you commit to follow this statutory requirement?

Yes.

51.As Oklahoma Attorney General, you have consistently advocated for the rights of states in the area of environmental protections. Will you apply the preemption provisions in TSCA in a manner that is consistent with the statute and your pre-stated philosophy when it comes to state leadership on environmental protection matters?

As I stated in my letter to Senators Inhofe and Boxer from April 9, 2016, I believe the Lautenberg Act ensures states have an important voice at the table and I will apply the law as enacted by Congress.

52.The new law greatly increases transparency and provides EPA with an obligation to protect against unjustified claims of confidentiality by industry. Do you commit to uphold the bill's statutory requirements in this area?

As I stated in my letter to Senators Inhofe and Boxer from April 9, 2016, I believe public dissemination of information about chemicals is critical to ensure public health and safety is upheld. In my view the Lautenberg Act struck a common sense balance between protecting confidential business information and informing the public and I intend to apply the law as enacted by Congress.

53. Do you agree that transparency is important to meaningful public participation in EPA's work on chemicals under TSCA? Do you commit to increasing transparency by fully implementing the provisions in the new law to prevent unjustified claims of confidentiality by industry?

As I have previously stated I believe the Lautenberg Act struck an appropriate balance between protecting confidential business information and informing the public and I intend to apply the law as enacted by Congress.

54. One of the reasons Congress was able to agree on a major re-write of TSCA was because of the fundamental agreement we made to clarify the law to ensure that costs could not be considered when EPA decided whether a chemical was safe or what level of a chemical was safe. Costs could only be a factor when deciding what type of regulation to require to meet that safe standard. Do you continue to support this approach? Would you oppose any effort to change this reformed approach to regulation?

If confirmed I intend to faithfully execute all provisions of the Lautenberg Act as enacted by Congress.

55. Nearly three decades ago, President George H. W. Bush attempted unsuccessfully to ban asbestos. Asbestos is banned in 55 countries across the globe and the World Health Organization says, quote, "all forms of asbestos are carcinogenic to humans". More than 30 Americans die each day from diseases like asbestosis and cancer caused by asbestos. Yet, in his 1997 book, *The Art of the Comeback*, President-elect Trump stated, that asbestos is, quote, "100 percent safe, once applied" and that he, quote, "believe[s] that the movement against asbestos was led by the mob." Do you agree with Mr. Trump that asbestos is 100 percent safe once applied or that the movement against asbestos was led by the mob?

Asbestos has been identified by the EPA as a high-priority chemical that requires a risk evaluation following the process established by the Lautenberg Act to determine whether conditions of use of the chemical substance pose an unreasonable risk. Prejudging the outcome of that risk evaluation process would not be appropriate.

56. In 2015, I released a reported entitled, "Failing the Grade: Asbestos in America's Schools."[5] Asbestos is still found in schools across America, and the true scope of the problem is still hard to ascertain. More than 53 million American children and six million American adults spend large portions of their days in school buildings that may contain dangerous environmental hazards. My report laid out recommendations on how to address the findings of the report.

- Millions of students attend schools that may have asbestos and this is clearly a widespread problem. How would the EPA under your direction, if confirmed, begin to assess the true scope of the problem?
- Will you commit to raising awareness among students, parents, teachers, and other employees about persistent asbestos hazards in school buildings? If not, why not?
- Do you support periodic reporting requirements for schools to report their progress related to the management and abatement of asbestos? If not, why not?
- Do you support additional funding for enforcement actions for schools that do not follow the law and may be exposing children to asbestos? If not, why not?
- Do you support public access to information about where asbestos can be found in products, school buildings, and elsewhere to empower the public to avoid preventable asbestos exposures? If not, why not?
- Do you support providing consumers with access to current information about asbestos-containing products? If not, why not?
- Do you support schools that are known to have asbestos updating their reports of where asbestos is located within a school? If not, why not?
- Do you support states communicating information to the EPA on their progress with implementation of asbestos response plans? If not, why not?
- Do you support continued research and outreach to improve public awareness of the danger of asbestos exposure? If not, why not?

If confirmed I will take the responsibility of protecting human health and the environment very seriously and in accordance with the legal authorities established by Congress. EPA has identified asbestos as a high-priority chemical and is now required to set the scope of review as well as conduct a risk evaluation of the conditions of use of the substance. Without prejudging that review process any conditions of use of asbestos or any other chemical substance that pose an unreasonable risk are required to be addressed under the law and appropriate communication of chemical reviews as well as transparency in the process is an important aspect of the law as passed by Congress. In addition to the Lautenberg Act, in 1986, Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and then later amended the act in 1990 to modify EPA's school asbestos remediation program. While I have not assessed the appropriateness of periodic reporting requirements, if confirmed I intend to use the authorities granted to the Agency by Congress under TSCA and other statutes to

[5] http://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2015-12-Markey-Asbestos-Report-Final.pdf

assess potential dangers as well as inform and protect the public as appropriate.

57.Last year entitled, "The ABCs of PCBs: A Toxic Threat to America's Schools."[6] Although Congress and the EPA banned the production and most uses of PCBs in 1979, the toxic chemical is still found in many schools across this country. In addition, my report laid out six recommendations.

- Since up 30% of students may be exposed to PCBs, this is a widespread problem. How would the EPA under your direction, if confirmed, begin to assess the true scope of the problem?
- PCBs are found within caulk and fluorescent light ballast in American schools. How would you encourage the removal of PCB-containing materials? Since these ballast are nearing the end of their useful life, EPA has said that it "recommends all PCB-containing FLBs be removed from lighting fixtures". Would you support the promulgation of a regulation under section 6(e) of TSCA that updates EPA's current regulations for PCBs and includes a requirement that all PCB-containing ballast be removed from schools and daycare facilities? If not, why not?
- There are multiple local education agencies and schools that have been seeking the advice and assistance of the EPA in dealing with PCB issues. Will you commit to assisting these agencies and schools and ensuring that the guidance EPA provides across all Regions of EPA is consistently and proactively provided? If not, why not?
- Do you support a requirement that each each school that was built or retrofitted between 1950 and 1979 (and therefor may contain PCBs) undergo a survey (to be administered by the local educational agency) in order to determine whether and where PCBs may be located within a school? If not, why not?
- Do you support a requirement for recordkeeping by state and local educational agencies of testing for, response to, and remediation of PCB hazards in schools? If not, why not?
- Do you support the EPA updating its testing guidance to encourage inspections of all schools built or retrofitted between 1950 and 1979, and improve its efforts to proactively and consistently communicate testing guidance to states, local education agencies, and schools with potential PCB hazards? If not, why not?
- Do you support the EPA developing guidance regarding the means by which parents, teachers, and employees should be notified of potential PCB hazards by schools and daycare facilities, including the manner in which such hazards should be described? If not, why not?
- Do you support the development and provision of updated guidance on the proper remediation of PCBs by EPA for schools, daycare facilities and other entities to use? If not, why not?
- Do you support the EPA proactively and regularly sharing best practices and other information outreach to states and school districts, and enforcement

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[6] https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016-10-05-Markey-PCB-Report-ABCsofPCBs.pdf

activities, related to PCB hazards in schools and daycare facilities across all EPA regions? If not, why not?
•Do you support EPA regional offices increasing their outreach to states and local education agencies to make them aware of available EPA's PCB regulations, guidance and resources? If not, why not?
•Do you support the EPA updating its current guidance on PCB hazards in schools to incorporate lessons learned from previous remediation projects and best available science? If not, why not?
•Do you support schools having detailed plans on how a school specifically plans to ensure the proper removal of PCBs before starting a PCB remediation project? Please explain.
•Do you support the authorization and appropriations of money for the testing for, response to, and remediation of PCB hazards and other environment hazards in schools? Please explain.

Addressing the issues of possible harmful exposures to chemicals in schools is an issue I would take very seriously if confirmed as EPA Administrator. While protecting children from exposure to chemical substances of concern it is important to have all the facts and ensure that an action does not create unintended consequences or put children at potentially greater peril via risk shifting or the possibility of remedial actions resulting in greater exposure to a substance. While I would not prejudge a regulatory outcome under the TSCA or any other law, I will work collaboratively with state and local governments and citizens to address issues and ensuring EPA regions are consistent and performing their legally required duties will be a priority if confirmed.

58.The Environmental Working Group reported that Oklahoma led the nation in pesticide-related illness and deaths between 2000 and 2010 based on data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.[7]
•Are you aware that your state, Oklahoma, leads the United States in pesticide-related illness and deaths? Why do you think this is the case?
•Recent reports have suggested that the increased use of pesticides is linked to the rapid decline in the bee population. What is your understanding of the science explaining the cause of the decline in bees in the United States?

I am not personally familiar with the report referenced in this question or generally the rate of pesticide usage in Oklahoma. I am generally aware of the important role bees play as pollinators, but it is unclear from the information provided in the question what specific reports are being discussed. If confirmed as Administrator, I would expect to be briefed by EPA staff before taking action on this issue and would work to ensure EPA

[7] http://www.ewg.org/agmag/2016/12/pruitt-s-home-state-leads-nation-pesticide-illnesses-and-deaths

followed all applicable legal requirements and made its decisions based on sound science.

59. Racial minorities and low-income communities are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution, siting of waste disposal facilities, and other industrial pollution causing activities. In many instances, the combination of poverty and race as well as lax enforcement and oversight of industrial activities results in worsened health outcomes by these communities.

- How will you address environmental justice and equity for minority and poor communities through EPA programs?
- What will you do to improve health equity as administrator of the EPA?
- What are your plans on reducing toxic pollution and disproportional burden of pollutants in communities of color?
- What will you do to increase enforcement and oversight in communities that are bearing the burden of environmental hazards?

- In your confirmation hearing, you committed to making environmental justice a top priority. If confirmed, will you commit to dedicating funding to assist minority and poor communities with resources and technical assistance to better engage with the EPA and industry about pollution activities and concerns occurring in their communities?

- What will you do to improve the EPA's office of Civil Rights to ensure that the EPA is in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
- Will you uphold and make a top priority throughout the agency's work, Executive order 12898, which requires federal agencies to make "achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."
- Do you vow to ensure that environmental justice activities throughout the agency remains focused on poor and minority communities?
- EPA recently developed the agency's EJ2020 action Agenda to better deliver on its historical promises of reducing disparities in environmental protection. Will you utilize and uphold this guidance and procedures outlined in this document throughout the work of the agency? Please explain.

As I testified, the Administrator plays an important role regarding environmental justice. If confirmed, I would work to faithfully execute the laws EPA is responsible for administering, in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans. If confirmed, I would expect EPA to operate in an open and transparent manner, consider the views of stakeholders as appropriate, act based on sound science, and follow the laws as established by Congress, including the Civil Rights Act. I am personally unfamiliar with the operations of EPA's Office of Civil Rights and details of current indicatives regarding environmental justice referenced in the question, but I would expect, if confirmed, I would be briefed by staff about ongoing programs and activities before taking any action.

60. If you are confirmed, do you commit not to direct the cessation of or otherwise impede the investigations or actions of the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance? If not, why not?

I am unfamiliar with the specific details of the actions referenced in the question. I would expect to be briefed by staff, in consultation with the Department of Justice as appropriate, before taking any action.

61. For each year since 1995, please provide information regarding the State of Oklahoma's environmental enforcement efforts. Specifically, for each year, please provide a list that includes:

- A brief description of each environmental enforcement action (including investigations and enforcement proceedings) initiated by the AG's office, including the date the action was initiated, the name of the subject of the action, and the nature of the action and environmental violation that led thereto.
- The annual budget of the Office of Environmental Enforcement, both in dollar terms and as a percentage of the AG's annual budget.
- The number of employees in the Office of Environmental Enforcement and in the AG's office writ large.
- A description of each environment enforcement action (including investigations and enforcement proceedings) that was closed, including a description of the resolution of the matter, whether a fine or penalty was levied (and if so the amount of such fine or penalty), whether non-monetary remedies were required (and if so, what), and whether a criminal prosecution was initiated in the matter (and if so what the resolution of the prosecution was).

In order for you to receive a comprehensive response to a voluminous request of that nature, I would direct you to make a request of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office under the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 10/3/2017 3:45:16 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: Message from DOW JONES (+19177566243)

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 11:42 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Message from DOW JONES **Ex. 6**

Liz – This is a voice mail from Tim Puko at the Wall Street Journal. He's still hoping to do a meet and greet. His contact info is copied below.

Timothy Puko
REPORTER, ENERGY POLICY

<image001.jpg>

M: **Ex. 6** P: **Ex. 6**
E: tim.puko@wsj.com
T: @timpuko
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036

From: Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System [mailto:unityconnection@hwaucsums01.ad.hunton.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: Message from DOW JONES (**Ex. 6**

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/3/2017 3:42:04 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: FW: Message from DOW JONES Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Attachments: VoiceMessage.wav

Liz – This is a voice mail from Tim Puko at the Wall Street Journal. He's still hoping to do a meet and greet. His contact info is copied below.

Timothy Puko
REPORTER, ENERGY POLICY

<image001.jpg>

M: Personal Phone / Ex. 6 O: Personal Phone / Ex. 6
E: tim.puko@wsj.com
T: @timpuko
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036

From: Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System [mailto:unityconnection@hwaucsums01.ad.hunton.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: Message from DOW JONES Ex. 6

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/2/2017 10:48:55 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: Seeking response to comments from Bruce Buckheit

Liz – By way of background, Bruce was EPA's air enforcement director during part of the time I previously was with EPA. That is the job currently held by Phil Brooks. The air enforcement director works in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and not the Office of Air and Radiation. Bruce worked at DOJ before he joined EPA. He retired while I was at EPA and (I think) has been working part time as a consultant and advisor to environmental advocacy groups.

With regard to CPP, you hit the nail on the head – the rule was stayed by the US Supreme Court soon after it was issued by the Obama EPA. That was the first time in history that the Supreme Court had issued such a stay. The stay clearly signaled the Court's deep discomfort with the legal viability of the CPP. Any concern about delay of the CPP flows directly from the stay.

As to his allegations of bias, I would say that we were even-handed. For example, we issued stringent emissions limits for non-road vehicles and engines that even NRDC had to acknowledge in the opposition letter that they circulated last week. Our goal was to be smart and efficient in complying with the Clean Air Act and protecting health and the environment.

From: Bowman, Liz [mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 6:36 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Lyons, Troy; Ringel, Aaron; Palich, Christian
Subject: RE: Seeking response to comments from Bruce Buckheit

Well, first and foremost, CPP isn't being delayed, it's stayed in court…can you type up some short responses that I can turn around and send to the reporter? Thank you!

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2017 6:07 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Seeking response to comments from Bruce Buckheit

Liz – Here's an inquiry from Morning Consult.

From: Iulia Gheorghiu [mailto:igheorghiu@morningconsult.com]
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 4:41 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: Seeking response to comments from Bruce Buckheit

Hi Mr. Wehrum,

My name is Iulia, I am an energy reporter and I left a message on your direct line about the comments of one of your former colleagues - Bruce Buckheit.

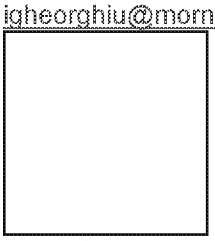
While interviewing former EPA officials about your track record in the office and the importance of the role for which you've been nominated, Mr. Buckheit called your work in the EPA with Jeff Holmstead as being pro-industry and said you are a "true believer" of anti-regulatory dogma. He made several comments to suggest that you will be going to great lengths to delay the enforcement of the Clean Power Plan.

I would like to include a response from you on allegations of being overwhelmingly in support of industry. It's important to me that this piece is reported evenly so I wanted to give you an opportunity to comment. I left my phone number Personal Phone / Ex. 6 on your office voicemail as well.

My deadline is 11 a.m. tomorrow, but I will be at the EPW hearing.

Sincerely,

Iulia Gheorghiu | Energy Reporter
igheorghiu@morningconsult.com | Ex. 6 @IMGheorghiu



Brands | Washington | Intelligence
Energy | Finance | Health | Tech

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/21/2017 8:53:09 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: WSJ introduction

Will do.

From: Bowman, Liz [mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:41 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Lyons, Troy; Ringel, Aaron; Palich, Christian
Subject: RE: WSJ introduction

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:36 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: WSJ introduction

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Puko, Tim [mailto:tim.puko@wsj.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:30 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: WSJ introduction

Hi, Bill. I'm the Wall Street Journal's new energy reporter in DC. I was going to introduce myself at Wednesday's hearing until it got postponed.

Do you have some time soon for a proper introduction? Wednesday afternoon or Friday of next week (Sept. 29) would be best for me, but I'm flexible.

--
Timothy Puko
REPORTER, ENERGY POLICY

M: Ex. 6 O: Ex. 6
E: tim.puko@wsj.com
T: @timpuko

A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036

Message

From: Ringel, Aaron [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1654BDC951284A6D899A418A89FB0ABF-RINGEL, AAR]
Sent: 10/9/2017 5:14:57 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Gunasekara, Mandy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53d1a3caa8bb4ebab8a2d28ca59b6f45-Gunasekara,]; Dominguez, Alexander [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5ced433b4ef54171864ed98a36cb7a5f-Dominguez,]
Subject: Re: First Draft QFR Responses

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Looping in Alex as well, I'll forward him the doc in a separate email.

Thanks,
Aaron

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 9, 2017, at 12:55 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

> Attached is my first cut at QFR responses. There was progression in my thinking and approach as I worked my way through the questions. So, I will focus next on editing for consistency. Also, there are two issues for which I included place holders. **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

<image001.jpg>

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

<Wehrum All QFRs 10.04.2017-c.docx>

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/9/2017 4:54:40 PM
To: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
CC: Gunasekara, Mandy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53d1a3caa8bb4ebab8a2d28ca59b6f45-Gunasekara,]
Subject: First Draft QFR Responses
Attachments: Wehrum All QFRs 10.04.2017-c.docx

Attached is my first cut at QFR responses. There was progression in my thinking and approach as I worked my way through the questions. So, I will focus next on editing for consistency. Also, there are two issues for which I included place holders. Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Message

From: Dourson, Michael (doursoml) [doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu]
Sent: 10/9/2017 1:48:51 PM
To: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]; Rodrick, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6515dbe46dae466da53c8a3aa3be8cc2-Rodrick, Ch]; Cory, Preston (Katherine) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bfd80b15f6d04a3ba11fc8ca3c85bc50-Cory, Kathe]; wwehrum@hunton.com; Leopold, Matthew Z. [MLeopold@carltonfields.com]; David Ross Ex. 6
Subject: Re: QFR's
Attachments: Dourson ALL QFR's 10.04.2017.docx; Attachment 2.docx; Attachment 1.docx; Corrected Question 3-Project Database January 2010 to June 2015.xls

Christian

Here are my draft answers. Please feel free to suggest modifications. I have no doubt that your team can improve these initial thoughts.

Cheers!

Michael

-- If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough. Albert Einstein

Risk Science Center
Department of Environmental Health

From: "Palich, Christian" <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Date: Friday, October 6, 2017 at 11:21 AM
To: "wwehrum@hunton.com" <wwehrum@hunton.com>, "Leopold, Matthew Z." <MLeopold@carltonfields.com>, Michael Dourson <doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu>, David Ross < Ex. 6
Cc: "Ringel, Aaron" <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>, "Lyons, Troy" <lyons.troy@epa.gov>, "Shimmin, Kaitlyn" <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>, "Frye, Tony (Robert)" <frye.robert@epa.gov>, "Rodrick, Christian" <rodrick.christian@epa.gov>, "Cory, Preston (Katherine)" <Cory.Preston@epa.gov>
Subject: QFR's

Hi All,

I had a call with Senate EPW this morning and protocol will be them emailing you directly (CCing us of course) your final QFR's. The due date for Senate offices to submit to EPW is a hard deadline of **4:30pm today**, and you should receive

them no later than **6pm this evening** to begin working on them. Please remember we will need completed drafts by no later than **noon Monday.**

Just wanted everyone to have a clear timeline for the day.

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

Message

From: David Ross [Ex. 6]
Sent: 10/9/2017 4:26:10 AM
To: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; wwehrum@hunton.com; Leopold, Matthew Z. [MLeopold@carltonfields.com]; Dourson, Michael (doursoml) [doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]; Rodrick, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6515dbe46dae466da53c8a3aa3be8cc2-Rodrick, Ch]; Cory, Preston (Katherine) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bfd80b15f6d04a3ba11fc8ca3c85bc50-Cory, Kathe]
Subject: Re: QFR's

I just spilled water on the laptop. I think that's also gremlin problematic.

On Sun, Oct 8, 2017 at 9:23 PM, Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov> wrote:
Just don't feed them after midnight.

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
[Ex. 6] cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 8, 2017, at 10:21 PM, David Ross <[Ex. 6]> wrote:

For the record, the QFRs are like gremlins. Every time I turn the page, the subparts seem to multiply.

On Fri, Oct 6, 2017 at 10:21 AM, Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi All,

I had a call with Senate EPW this morning and protocol will be them emailing you directly (CCing us of course) your final QFR's. The due date for Senate offices to submit to EPW is a hard deadline of **4:30pm today**, and you should receive them no later than **6pm this evening** to begin working on them. Please remember we will need completed drafts by no later than **noon Monday.**

Just wanted everyone to have a clear timeline for the day.

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.

Christian R. Palich

Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs

U.S Environmental Protection Agency

O: 202.564.4944

C: Ex. 6

E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 9/15/2017 12:20:55 PM
To: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: press inquiry

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 15, 2017, at 7:36 AM, Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov> wrote:
>

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Ringel, Aaron
> Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 7:08 AM
> To: Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com>
> Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
> Subject: Re: press inquiry
>
> Bill, looping in Troy & Christian plus Liz/Jahan on our press team. We can discuss this morning at the mock hearing.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Sep 14, 2017, at 11:48 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:
>>
>> Let's discuss tomorrow.
>>
>>
>> Begin forwarded message:
>>
>> From: "Kaplan, Sheila"
>> <sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com<mailto:sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com>>
>> Date: September 14, 2017 at 10:23:46 PM EDT
>> To: <wwehrum@hunton.com<mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com>>
>> Subject: press inquiry
>>
>> Dear Mr. Wehrum:
>> I'm a reporter for the Times, working on a story on the upcoming confirmation hearing, for Dr. Dourson, Mr. David Ross and yourself. I'm sure you are aware that there has been criticism from the environmental groups, about your record of working for regulated industries.
>> I'd like to get a comment from you to give your side of that issue. Do
>> you feel your experience working for industry means you favor them
>> over the agency or the public? Why not? Does having come from the
>> regulated industry, at least as a lawyer for some of the industry,
>> give you a better sense of the issues? If so, how? And how often will
>> you have to recuse yourself? Our deadline is 1 pm Friday. (tomorrow.)
>> Many thanks, Sheila
>> --
>> Sheila Kaplan
>> Reporter, Washington Bureau
>> The New York Times
>> Office: Ex. 6
>> Cell: Ex. 6

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 9/15/2017 12:15:16 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: press inquiry

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 15, 2017, at 7:42 AM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:
>
> **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**
>
>> On Sep 15, 2017, at 7:36 AM, Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov> wrote:
>>
>> **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Ringel, Aaron
>> Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 7:08 AM
>> To: Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com>
>> Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
>> Subject: Re: press inquiry
>>
>> Bill, looping in Troy & Christian plus Liz/Jahan on our press team. We can discuss this morning at the mock hearing.
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>>> On Sep 14, 2017, at 11:48 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Let's discuss tomorrow.
>>>
>>>
>>> Begin forwarded message:
>>>
>>> From: "Kaplan, Sheila"
>>> <sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com<mailto:sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com>>
>>> Date: September 14, 2017 at 10:23:46 PM EDT
>>> To: <wwehrum@hunton.com<mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com>>
>>> Subject: press inquiry
>>>
>>> Dear Mr. Wehrum:
>>> I'm a reporter for the Times, working on a story on the upcoming confirmation hearing, for Dr. Dourson, Mr. David Ross and yourself. I'm sure you are aware that there has been criticism from the environmental groups, about your record of working for regulated industries.
>>> I'd like to get a comment from you to give your side of that issue. Do
>>> you feel your experience working for industry means you favor them
>>> over the agency or the public? Why not? Does having come from the
>>> regulated industry, at least as a lawyer for some of the industry,
>>> give you a better sense of the issues? If so, how? And how often will
>>> you have to recuse yourself? Our deadline is 1 pm Friday. (tomorrow.)
>>> Many thanks, Sheila
>>> --
>>> Sheila Kaplan
>>> Reporter, Washington Bureau
>>> The New York Times

>>> Office: Ex. 6
>>> Cell: Ex. 6

Message

From: Frye, Tony (Robert) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=58C08ABDFC1B4129A10456B78E6FC2E1-FRYE, ROBER]
Sent: 9/14/2017 4:14:51 PM
To: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; 'David Ross' Ex. 6 MLeopold@carltonfields.com; 'Dourson, Michael (doursoml)' [doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu]; wwehrum@hunton.com
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]
Subject: RE: Tomorrow 9/14 Schedule
Attachments: Adm. Pruitt Nom Hearing Transcript.pdf

Here is you the video and attached is the transcript for Administrator Pruitt's nomination hearing.

From: Palich, Christian
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 6:38 PM
To: 'David Ross' < Ex. 6 MLeopold@carltonfields.com; 'Dourson, Michael (doursoml)' <doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu>; wwehrum@hunton.com
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Frye, Tony (Robert) <frye.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Tomorrow 9/14 Schedule

Hi Everyone,

I have attached the most up to date line by line for reference, and below is the schedule for tomorrow for your convenience. OCIR has planned all the logistics out for tomorrow's meetings and we will ensure everyone gets where they need to be on time.

*Please note we will have a **9am pre meeting** with you all and our OCIR team. Once you arrive at EPA HQ please call myself at Ex. 6 or Kaitlyn Shimmi Ex. 6 and we will come down to the front desk of the North Building to get you through security. We will then promptly leave EPA at 9:30am via EPA vehicle.*

Thursday, September 14

9:00 AM- 9:30 AM **All Nominees:** Meeting with OCIR
Location: WJC North 3428 (OCIR Conference Room)

10:00 AM- 10:45 AM **All Nominees:** Meeting with EPW Majority Staff
Location: 410 Dirksen (Staff: Christian Palich & Aaron Ringel)

11:00 AM- 11:30 AM **DOURSON, ROSS, WEHRUM:** Meeting with Senator Wicker (R-MS)
Location: 555 Dirksen (Staff: Christian Palich & Aaron Ringel)

11:45 AM-12:15 PM **DOURSON:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI)
Location: 530 Hart (Staff: Troy Lyons & Christian Palich)

2:15 PM- 2:45 PM **ROSS & LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Markey (D-MA)
Location: 255 Dirksen (Christian Palich & Kaitlyn Shimmin)

2:30 PM- 3:00 PM	**DOURSON:** Meeting with Senator Carper (D-DE) Location: 513 Hart (Troy Lyons & Tony Frye)
3:30 PM- 4:00 PM	**ROSS**: Meeting with Senator Carper (D-DE) Location: 513 Hart (Troy Lyons & Christian Palich)
4:00 PM-4:30 PM	**WEHRUM:** Meeting with Senator Carper (D-DE) Location: 513 Hart (Troy Lyons & Aaron Ringel)
4:30 PM- 5:00 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Carper (D-DE) Location: 513 Hart (Troy Lyons & Christian Palich)

If everyone has time tonight or later this week, our team thought it might be helpful to also review Susan Bodine's confirmation hearing to get a sense of what next week will be like. (link below)

https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=8A391353-EECC-4D5F-A426-848BF12054E5

Have a terrific evening!

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

CQ CONGRESSIONAL TRANSCRIPTS
Congressional Hearings
Jan. 18, 2017 - Final

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Holds Hearing on Nomination of Scott Pruitt to be EPA Administrator

LIST OF PANEL MEMBERS AND WITNESSES

BARRASSO:
Good morning. I call this hearing to order. We have quite a full house today. I welcome the audience. This is a formal Senate hearing, and in order to allow the committee to conduct its business, we'll maintain decorum.

That means if there are disorders, demonstrations by a member of the audience, the person causing the disruption will be escorted from the room by the Capitol Police.

Since this is our first hearing of this session, I'd like to welcome our new members, Senators Jerry Moran and Joni Ernst, Tammy Duckworth, and Kamala Harris. Thank you very much, and congratulations in joining the committee.

I'd also like to welcome Senator Tom Carper, in his new role as the ranking member of the committee.

You are here, even if you have a scratchy throat, 40 years from when you were a treasurer of Delaware, member of Congress, governor, member of the U.S. Senate, have not missed a day. You are Cal Ripken, Junior, the Iron Man, so thanks for being here. Thank you. I look forward to looking with you.

Yeah, he deserves applause, that's right.

With regard to procedure, we will follow the early bird rule in terms of the order of member questions. Members who were here at the start, as you all are, will be placed in the line based on your seniority on the committee. Members who arrive after the hearing has started will be added to the line in the order they arrive.

With respect to today's hearing, we'll be -- we'll abide by the committee's five-minute rule. The five minutes includes not just the questions, but also the nominee's answer, so I ask our members to please leave enough time for the nominee to answer your question. Today, we'll have many rounds of questions, as are necessary, so that members' questions are answered.

Today's hearing is to consider the nomination of Attorney General of Oklahoma, Scott Pruitt, to be the administrator the Environmental Protection Agency.

Attorney General Pruitt has been a distinguished public servant as well, and we will hear from his, the same from his fellow Oklahomans today. He served eight years in the Oklahoma State Senate, before being elected attorney general of Oklahoma in November of 2010, where he still serves.

There are numerous statements from his peers and the people that he has helped over the years, that stand as a testament to his strong qualifications to run the Environmental Protection Agency.

Twenty-four state attorneys general wrote to both Ranking Member Carper and to me, stating that quote, "As attorneys general, we understand the need to work collaboratively to address threats to our environment that cross state lines, as well as the importance of a federal counterpart in the EPA administrator, who possesses the knowledge, experience and principles, to work with our states to address issues affecting our environment. We believe that no one exemplifies these qualities more than Scott Pruitt."

Now Attorney General Pruitt has taken on polluters, including the oil industry, when there is cause. Randy Ellis, an award winning investigative reporter with The Oklahoman newspaper, praised Pruitt for his ability to take on industry.

The paper highlighted the work of Attorney General Pruitt to hold a large oil company accountable. This is what Ellis stated. He said, "Mr. Pruitt demonstrated that he will take on industry when they overstep, when he sued oil companies such as BP, who knowingly double- dip by collecting reimbursements for corrective environmental costs for sites that they've polluted."

This is why I believe President-elect Trump nominated Attorney General Pruitt to serve as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA, under the leadership of a qualified and responsible administrator, is a vital tool, that must be used to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and communities where our families live. It's truly a sacred trust.

Colleagues on both sides of the aisle say that Attorney General Pruitt has the right experience for the position. Attorney General Pruitt understands the need to both protect the environment, while allowing our nation's economy to grow. The agency needs a leader who will follow the laws created by this committee.

During the last eight years, EPA administrators created broad and legally questionable new regulations, which have undermined the American people's faith in the agency. These regulations have done great damage to the livelihoods of our nation's hardest working citizens.

The regulatory zeal of the last eight years has violated a fundamental principle of environmental stewardship, which is do no harm. This failed environmental leadership has contributed to two of the worst government-created environmental disasters in decades, the Gold King Mine spill, and Flint Michigan's water crisis. Those disasters hurt people, many from low income and minority communities who can least afford it.

As I've discussed with Attorney General Pruitt, my home state of Wyoming is a leading energy producing state. We have abundant supplies of coal, natural gas, crude oil and uranium. These industries provide thousands of good-paying jobs for Wyoming communities.

We are also, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful states in the nation. We are home to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, and numerous national forests and pristine lakes and waterways. Our wildlife population is diverse and abundant. We have thriving populations of grizzly bears, wolves, elk and bison.

People travel from around the world to come to Wyoming, because our state's natural resources are spectacular. Wyoming has managed to strike that balance between our environment and our economy, and it shows.

For eight years, Wyoming has suffered under an EPA that didn't believe in striking a balance. As EPA regulations crushed energy jobs in my state, state revenue fell, that pays for state programs. This includes paying for our vital environmental programs.

Clearly, a wholesale change is needed. Any new administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency needs to protect the environment in a responsible way, that doesn't ignore the good work that states do to protect their air, land and water, as well as their economies.

At this time, I'd like to ask ranking member, Senator Carper, for an opening statement.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman, thank you. Thank you for bringing us here today. Thank you for your kind, kind words, as well. Let me begin by welcoming our nominee, his wife Marilyn -- Marlyn, and their children, Cade and McKenna, to what's a very important hearing.

Just put -- this past Sunday morning, I rose at dawn, and I went for a long run. It took me through a beautiful state park in the northern part of Delaware.

I reached the park at sunrise, just as the sun was coming up, and the sky was turning a brilliant blue. The winter air was crisp, and clear. Wildlife was all around. In a word, it was perfect. As I ran, I said a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of this moment.

Later that morning, my wife and I went to church, and there we joined our congregation in singing a hymn that began with these words. "For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which formed our birth, over and around us lies. Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise."

Those words filled my heart with emotion then, and they do so again this morning. In a little more than 48 hours, Donald Trump will place his hand on a bible. He'll take an oath to defend our country and constitution. That bible reminds us repeatedly to love our neighbors as ourselves, and it answers the question, who is my neighbor.

Also found in those pages are scores of admonitions with -- about another obligation that those of us who live on this earth are expected to meet. Simply put, we're to serve as stewards of this planet. I believe that we have a moral obligation to do so.

A great many of my colleagues in the Senate agree, and so do most Americans. We need to be convinced that you embrace it as well, not just with your words, but with your deeds. Much of your record suggests otherwise. And today, and in the days that follow, we need to find out where the truth lies.

Leading the Environmental Protection Agency is hard work. That agency, created by President Richard Nixon and a bipartisan Congress, 46 years ago, is tasked with implementing our nation's most important clean air, clean water, and safe chemical laws.

The EPA is required to use sound science to protect both our environment and our public health. By and large, the EPA has done this successfully for decades, while our economy has continued to grow.

Many in this room today may not remember a time before the EPA, a time when states had to work individually to protect citizens in the community in which they lived, a time before the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act were signed into law, a sign when businesses operating throughout the U.S. were faced with a myriad of conflicting state and local laws affecting our health and our environment.

The choking smog and soot of a half century ago seem unfathomable now. Rivers on fire, and deadly toxic plumes sound like something from another world, impossible in our United States of America.

Today we have the luxury of largely forgetting these frightening circumstances, thanks to the efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency, its employees, in partnership with state and local agencies, and with companies across America.

In fact, the EPA and its many partners throughout this country have been so successful, that it's easy for some of us to forget just why this agency is so critical. For some, it's also easy to presume that not much more -- there's not much more for the agency to do, and that just could not be further from the truth.

The environmental threats that we face today are real. They don't respect state boundaries. As we consider a nominee to run our nation's foremost environmental legacy agency, it's worth reminding everyone here why the mission of the EPA is so critical, and just what is at stake.

Over time, my state of Delaware's made -- they have made great strides in cleaning up our own air pollution, but our work only goes so far. Delaware, like many states on the East Coast, sits at the end of what is known as America's tailpipe.

Ninety percent of the air pollution in Delaware comes from outside of the first state, from power plants, hundreds of miles away, in places like Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and across the Midwest.

As governor of Delaware, if I had eliminated every source of air pollution within my state, stopped every combustion source and ordered every motor vehicle off the roads, Delaware would still have faced deadly doses of air pollution.

Should children and others in Delaware really be forced to live with the consequences of decisions made by polluters hundreds or even thousands of miles away, who gain economically from our disadvantage? I don't think so.

Fortunately, the EPA has recently implemented something called the Good Neighbor rule, to make sure that all states do their fair share to clean up the air. Every citizen in this country has a right to breathe clean air, regardless of whether they're in a downwind or an upwind state. That is why we have the EPA.

I remember fishing, as a boy, with my dad, along the Dan River, near my hometown of Danville, Virginia. We brought home the fish that we caught, to eat, and my mom and sister ate them as well.

Today, that quintessential American pastime comes with a warning label. That river, along with countless other polluted streams, rivers and lakes, in all 50 states, are subject to public health advisories, cautioning citizens against eating the mercury-laden fish found in them.

We've known for decades that most of the mercury in our fish come from air pollution, that's emitted from the dirtiest coal plants, and then settles in our water ways. We also know that mercury is a powerful neurotoxin, that accumulates in the human body over time, threatening the health of this environment and this generation, and for generation to come.

The EPA recently issued public health protections to clean up the toxic air pollution from our dirtiest coal plants, allowing families in Delaware and thousands of other communities to once again eat the fish from our rivers, our lakes, our streams, without concern of mercury poisoning. That's why we have the EPA.

Too often, when state and local communities are pinched for cash, they try to save money by short-changing clean air and clean water protections. Improvement to water infrastructure are often times ignored. Corners are cut. Solutions are adopted that may save dollars now, but inflict costly and unnecessary damage later.

As we've seen most recently in the city of Flint, Michigan, these cuts can have a terrible, even a tragic impact on the health of the most vulnerable in our society, especially the youngest among us. Today, the citizens of Flint still lack clean drinking water. And the new generation there, which has been exposed to high levels of lead, faces an uncertain future. That's why we have the EPA.

You may not know it, Mr. Pruitt, but Delaware is the lowest-lying state in our nation. The highest point in Delaware is a bridge. Back home, the reality that our climate is changing is not up for grabs, or up for debate.

Families and business owners face the stark reality of climate change every single day. And tackling that challenge is not just the right thing to do, what is best for Delaware's economy, it is a matter of survival.

Take a ride with me sometime, some 30 miles south of Dover Air Force Base, heading east toward the Delaware Bay on Prime Hook Road, and you'll see what I mean. There was a time, not long ago, where just before you reached the Delaware Bay, you came to a parking lot. Today that parking lot is under water.

Stand there with me, looking to the east, and you'll see part of a concrete bunker sticking up out of the water, about 1 o'clock. Recently, someone showed me a photo taken of that bunker in 1947, the year I was born. It was on dry land, 500 feet west of the water's edge, 500 feet west.

But our little state alone cannot stem the flow of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere that's largely causing our climate to change, our seas to rise, and our coastline to retreat. Every state must do its fair share to safeguard our climate and their neighbors. That is why we have the EPA.

Examples of air and water pollution produced by one state in fouling the air and waters of other can still be found in too many parts of America, like the runoff from Pennsylvania that degrades the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, or the haze exported from other states which often times shrouds the Smoky Mountains and degrades visibility at the Grand Canyon. That's why we have the EPA.

And some of my colleagues describe me as "recovering governor." For the most part, I believe that governors and presidents deserve deference in picking the members of their leadership teams. And as a result, I've given presidents of both parties that deference, in most instances.

Since coming to the Senate in 2001, I've opposed only one of the nominees for EPA administrator, supporting two Republicans, two Democrats nominees. Subsequently, every EPA administrator that I've supported demonstrated clearly that they were committed to furthering the overall mission of the EPA, protecting human health and our environment.

I'm also committed to a full and fair confirmation process, with respect to our nominations that this president-elect has offered, too. And having said that, though, I've shared with Mr. Pruitt, and I'll share with my

colleagues today that too much of what I've seen of his record on the environment, and his views about the role of EPA are troubling, and in some cases, deeply troubling.

Even former Republican Administrator, EPA Administrator Christine Whitman, with whom I served for seven years as governor of neighboring states, recently said that she can't, and I quote, she "can't recall ever having seen an appointment of someone who is so disdainful of the agency and the science behind what the agency does."

Let me conclude with this. It's hard to imagine a more damning statement, and from one who served not long ago in that position of trust, Mr. Pruitt, to which you've been nominated. Today is your opportunity to show that she's gotten it wrong. To be honest with you, coming to this hearing today, I fear that she's gotten it right. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much, Senator Carper.

In a few moments, I'd like to turn to Senator Inhofe and Lankford, from their home state of Oklahoma, regarding the nominee's distinguished career. Before I do that, though, I want to say a few words about Senator Inhofe and his distinguished career as chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

First I want to thank my friend, Jim Inhofe, for his leadership of this committee. His dedication to protecting the environment, rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, strengthening the country's economy, were clearly evident throughout his time as chairman. He worked across party lines to get things done.

During the 114th Congress, under Jim Inhofe's leadership, this committee held 67 hearings. Of those, eight were field hearings. Thirty-two bills passed out of the committee that were signed into law. Chairman Inhofe undersaw -- oversaw the first long-term highway bill in a decade. This law will improve the nation's roads, bridges, transit systems, and rail transportation networks.

He also worked, on a bipartisan basis, with former ranking member, Barbara Boxer, to pass badly needed Water Resources Development Act legislation. This new law prioritizes dam, waterway and port construction projects, and it supports flood control projects that protect millions of people.

For the first time in 40 years, the Toxic Substances Control Act was modernized, under Chairman Inhofe's tenure. This law enacts a new uniform regulatory program that will improve public confidence in the safety of chemicals, promote innovation, and provide manufacturers with certainty regarding regulation.

Chairman Inhofe also worked to keep the administration accountable. Chairman Inhofe worked to ensure that there was oversight of over-reaching administration regulations concerning the clean power plan, Waters of the U.S., the stream buffer rule, coal ash regulations and many more.

So I'm very glad that Senator Inhofe will remain on the committee. I look forward to working closely with him to protect our environment and bolster our nation's economy.

Senator Inhofe, thank you for your hard work, your dedication, and your leadership. Senator Inhofe, you're now recognized, to introduce and talk about Attorney General Pruitt. Thank you.

INHOFE:
Senator Barrasso, thank you very much. And I'm looking forward to working in a very senior position of your committee. And this is the committee that gets things done, as Scott Pruitt's fully aware.

Now, I thank you, Chairman Barrasso, and also you, Senator Carper, for letting me join you for this. And I'm honored to join my fellow senator, Senator Lankford, in introducing not just the attorney general of -- Scott Pruitt, but my good friend, and to offer my support for his nomination to be the next administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Though neither of us were born in Oklahoma, we got here as quick as we could, and both ended up in Tulsa, and so he's also a neighbor. Attorney General Pruitt, you'll be glad to know this (inaudible), but he was born in Kentucky.

And he showed what -- what he was made out of. He ended up a great baseball player, that was -- was able to get a scholarship, and go through the university there. Then he came to Oklahoma and went through law school, at Tulsa University in Tulsa, and did all kind of things. He specialized, at that time, in constitutional law.

In 1998, General Pruitt -- Pruitt ran and was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate, where he served six years, and he quickly became a leader. Indeed, success has followed him throughout his law practice, to the State Senate, to become the co-owner and manager, managing general partner of Oklahoma City's AAA minor league baseball team -- see, we have something in addition to the Thunder, that we're all fully aware of, and is currently Oklahoma's, of course, attorney general.

Through the course of his career, Attorney General Pruitt has stood out as a champion of state and individual rights, and has fought against federal over-reach. He has earned a reputation as a defender of the rule of law, and has worked to keep those -- the role of the federal government in check.

As head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Attorney General Pruitt will ensure that the agency fulfills the role delegated to it by the laws passed by Congress, nothing more, and nothing less. Oklahoma is an energy and agriculture state, but we're also a state that knows what it means to protect the environment, while balancing competing interests.

As attorney general, Scott was instrumental -- oh, this is a big deal. We actually have had an ongoing litigation for 100 years. It was the State of Oklahoma, the City of Oklahoma City, the Choctaw Nation -- the Chickasaw Nation. It was over water rights. And we weren't able to resolve that problem.

This guy comes trotting along and resolves it overnight, after 100 years of failures of trying to get this done. He's also worked with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, to protect the scenic rivers.

He's kind of a hero of the scenic rivers place. People don't -- they don't know, Scott, that we, in Oklahoma, actually have more miles of fresh water shoreline...

(PROTESTER)

BARRASSO:
I would ask the senator to please...

INHOFE:
Yes.

BARRASSO:
... suspend his remarks for a few seconds, maybe. Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

INHOFE:
They obviously don't like scenic rivers, but we do, in Oklahoma.

Anyway, additionally, in 2012, Oklahoma partnered with three other states, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Texas, to bring together state officials, conservation groups, energy and ag industries, and other private land owners, to address the challenges facing one of our -- one of the problems that we have there, having to do with a, what might become a -- an endangered species.

It was an effort that saw success in its first year. Now this is working with four -- four different states. Despite endorsing the plan, the Fish and Wildlife Service moved forward with listing the species as threatened, endangering the cooperation reached between these varying interests.

So Attorney General Scott sued the Fish and Wildlife Department for ignoring the unique cooperative agreement, and he won. He wins. He wins these things. Yes, as attorney general, the -- Scott Pruitt has fought the EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the oil companies, and the out of -- outgoing administration, on many fronts.

But all of these suits were brought to protect state and local interests from over-zealous and activist executive agencies. Over the last eight years, the Obama administration has advanced a radical environmental agenda, has exhibited a deep distrust of state governments and private land owners, and has worked to obstruct the fossil fuel industry and agriculture producers, the most ardent protectors of the environment.

These are industries and interests that Oklahoma relies on. And far from being an enemy of the environment, Scott has proven himself to be an expert at balancing economic growth with environmental super -- stewardship.

So I believe that Attorney General Pruitt will return the Environmental Protection Agency to its proper role as a steward for the environment, acting within the bounds prescribed by Congress and the Constitution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

Senator Lankford.

LANKFORD:
Chairman Barrasso, thank you. Ranking Member Carper, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to be able to be here today, to introduce my fellow Oklahoma, and for Senator Inhofe and I to both be able to stand with him, and to be able to introduce who we believe will be a tremendous nominee for the, as administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. It's an honor to speak in support of Attorney General Pruitt today.

Over the past six years, Scott has been a leader in the State of Oklahoma, strongly committed to enforcing the law and adhering to the Constitution. He's a statesman. He's a dedicated public servant. As the administrator of the EPA, I would fully expect Scott to lead the agency to follow every environmental law, and to partner with states, local authorities, and tribes, to do what's best for our present and for our future.

As attorney general of Oklahoma, he stood shoulder to shoulder with more than half of the states, to ensure the federal government operates within the bounds of the statute and the Constitution. He's argued consistently that many regulations that the EPA promulgates are, in fact, the responsibilities of state governments, first.

In an environment where Chevron deference is precedent, it is critical that the leader of an agency has -- that has such wide latitude to extract cost from the economy, also respects the importance of our federalist foundation, and the pocketbooks of hard- working families.

In previous congressional testimony, Scott has emphasized the importance of laws like the Clean Air Act, stressing that it -- stressing that the intention was for states and the EPA to work together, under a model of cooperative federalism, that protects the environment, while considering economic cost.

As attorney general, Pruitt -- as attorney general, Scott has been an ardent defender of the rule of law for Oklahomans. In 2012, he sued British Petroleum, arguing that they knowingly doubled-dipped, through the collection of funds, through a cleanup fund, despite having insurance coverage for environmental cleanup. He did not hesitate to stand up for his constituents and for his state.

Mike Turpen is the former attorney general of the State of Oklahoma, and the former chairman of the Oklahoma Democratic Party. He spoke out in mid-December, when Scott was first announced. Let me just read a short portion of his very long statement in support of Scott Pruitt.

Former Attorney General Mike Turpen, and our former Democratic Party Chairman said, "Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is a good choice to head up the Environmental Protection Agency. I'm convinced Scott Pruitt will work to protect our natural habitats, reserves and resources. His vision for a proper relationship between protection and prosperity makes him a superbly qualified to serve as our next EPA administrator."

Scott is an active member, and a deacon at his church, First Baptist Church Broke Arrow, a congregation of almost 2,000 people. He's incredibly strong in his faith, and he strives to walk in integrity. Scott's a serious baseball fan as well. If you run out of environmental or legal questions today, which I doubt you will, but if you run out, why don't you ask him a couple of questions about baseball strategy and spring training, which starts in just a few weeks.

I have to tell you, Scott's a friend. I've prayed with Scott. I've seen Scott struggle with hard decisions that affect our state's future. I've seen Scott listen to people, to try to learn all sides of an issue, and I've seen Scott take difficult stands on matters of law.

I think he'll be an excellent administrator for the EPA. And I think he'll do very well today, in getting a chance to bring you the confidence that he will work hard for our nation's present, and for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Well thank you so very much, Senator Lankford, and Senator Inhofe. Senator Lankford, you're welcome to stay, but you can't stay in that seat. So...

LANKFORD:
You got it.

BARRASSO:
Now I would like to welcome Attorney General Pruitt to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Welcome. I invite you to first introduce your family, and then proceed with your statement. Congratulations, and welcome.

PRUITT:
Good morning, Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, members of the committee. It is an honor and a privilege to be before you today, to be considered for the position of EPA administrator.

I first want to say thank you to Senators Inhofe and Lankford for their opening comments. Senator Inhofe has been a mentor and a friend to me, many, many years. And he's spent a lot of time through -- with me through this process, introducing me to many of you. And I really appreciate his guidance and his help. Senator Lankford was a friend well before he entered Congress, and he's already serving Oklahoma and his country with great distinction.

Mr. Chairman, you indicated to introduce my family. I am blessed today, to have my family in attendance with me. My wife, Marlyn, of 27 years, is in attendance, along with my children, McKenna and Cade. There's a little change going on in their life, as well.

McKenna is actually graduating from Oklahoma University this spring, and heading into Senator Whitehouse's alma matter, the University of Virginia law school. And my son is going to be graduating high school and heading to Oklahoma University, following his sister's footsteps, to be a Boomer Sooner.

So there's lots of change going on in their lives, lots of change going on in my family's life, and lots of change going on in the country. And I think the people of this country are really hungry for some change. And with change comes an opportunity for growth, an opportunity to assess how we can reprioritize, as a nation.

And when I ponder leading the EPA, I get excited about the great work to be done in behalf of our nation, in protecting the stewards -- in being a good steward of the natural resources we have as a nation. What could be more important than protecting our nation's waters, improving our air, and managing the land that we've been blessed with as a nation, all the while protecting the health and welfare of our people?

So if confirmed, I would lead the EPA with the following principles in mind. First, we must reject, as a nation, the false paradigm, that if you're pro-energy, you're anti-environment, and if you're pro-environment, you're anti-energy. I utterly reject that narrative.

In this nation, we can grow our economy, harvest the resources God has blessed us with, while also being good stewards of the air, land and water by which we've been favored. It is not an either/or proposition.

Next, we should celebrate the great progress we've made as a nation since the inception of the EPA, and the laws that have been passed by this body, but recognize that we have much work to do.

Third, rule of law matters. Process matters. It inspires confidence in those that are regulated. The law is static, not transient. Regulators are supposed to make things regular, to fairly and equitably enforce the rules, and not pick winners and losers.

A regulator should not be for or against any sector of our economy. Instead, a regulator ought to follow the law in setting up the rules, so that those who are regulated can plan, allocate resources to meet the standards, versus operating in a state of uncertainty and duress.

Fourth, federalism matters. It matters because Congress says so, and because we need it to achieve good outcomes as a nation for air and water quality. We need the partnership of the states to achieve that. It is our state regulators who oftentimes best understand the local needs and the uniqueness of our environmental challenges. Plus, our state regulators possess the resources and expertise to enforce our environmental laws.

Fifth, public participation is key. We need to hear all voices, as we make decisions in behalf of our country, with respect to environmental laws.

Two final things, personally. I seek to be a good listener, to listen, and to lead. You can't do one without the other. Listen to those career staff...

(PROTESTER)

Listen to those career staff at the EPA, as I've done as attorney general of Oklahoma, and listen to you here in Congress, with respect to the needs of your respective states, and listen to the voice of all Americans, as we seek to carry out our duties under the law.

Lastly, and this is very important, I seek to serve with servility. Oftentimes, as policy-makers, you deal with very contentious issues. I have, as attorney general of Oklahoma, as well. We deal with weighty issues, and there are -- there's passion on both sides of issues.

But we should not succumb to personalizing matters. We should encourage open and civil discourse. One such issue where civil discourse is absent, involves climate change. Let me say to you, science tells us that the climate is changing, and that human activity, in some manner, impacts that change.

The ability to measure, with precision, the degree and extent of that impact, and what to do about it, are subject to continuing debate and dialogue, and well it should be. So with these principles in mind, I seek to answer your questions today, and I am honored to be here today to be considered for the position of EPA administrator.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Well thank you very much. Welcome, to your family, and thank you, and congratulations again.

Attorney General Pruitt, you've answered the committee questionnaire. The United States Office of Government Ethics has stated that you are, quote, "in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest."

Now, you know, throughout this hearing, and with the questions for the records, our committee members will have an opportunity to learn more about your commitment to public servant and our nation. I would ask that, throughout this hearing, you please respond to the questions, for the record.

With that said, I have to ask the following questions that we ask of all nominees on behalf of the committee. Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear before this committee or designated members of this committee, and other appropriate committees of the Congress, and provide information, subject to appropriate and necessary security protection, with respect to your responsibilities?

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Do you agree to ensure that testimony, briefings, documents and electronic and other forms of information are provided to this committee and its staff, and other appropriate committees, in a timely manner?

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:

And do you know of any matters, which you may or may not have disclosed, that might place you in any conflict of interest if you are confirmed?

PRUITT:
No, Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Just a couple of quick questions before we go back and forth. I'd just ask if you could just please describe your environmental philosophy, of what you would do to protect our environment.

PRUITT:
Well, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in my opening statement, I believe that the role of a regulator -- and this may not sound too exciting, but is to make things regular. And I think, one of the -- the difficult challenges we see, with individuals across the country, is the ability -- the inability to predict, or know what's expected of them, as far as their obligations under our environmental laws.

And -- and I really believe, Mr. Chairman, that if confirmed as EPA administrator, this public participation, cooperative federalism, rule of law being the focus of how we do business at the EPA, is center to restoring confidence and certainty in those that are regulated.

Clearly, the mission of the EPA, as I indicated in my opening statement, to protect our natural resources, protecting our water quality, improving our air, helping protect the health and welfare of our citizens, is key to the leadership of the EPA, and where enforcement is necessary, a vigorous enforcement.

I've done that as attorney general in Oklahoma. I've taken very constructive steps against those that have violated the law. But we have done so, I think, in a very decisive and -- and meaningful way, so Mr. Chairman, with that in mind.

BARRASSO:

I'm going to ask one other question, and then I'm going to reserve the -- the balance of my time for some interjection and questioning throughout. But there's still a number of environmental problems that I see in the country and in my state.

Cold war legacy pollution is a serious problem, where chemical compounds are left deep in the soil, from our military activity, years -- decades ago. Often there are not the tools yet available to adequately address this pollution. If confirmed, would you advocate increasing the EPA's focus on innovative technological solutions to address these and other environmental problems?

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman. In this -- this Congress, this past Congress, as you indicated in your statement, and as Senator Inhofe recognized, with the changes to the TSCA law, there are priorities this year, new authority, actually, that's being given to the EPA administrator, to order testing on certain chemicals.

As I've spent time with some of the members on this committee, Senator Gillibrand, as an example, mentioned PFOA, as a concern, with respect to the Safe Drinking Water Act, along with TSCA.

And so yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe that there are priorities that are key to improving our environment, from CERCLA, to TSCA, across air quality, with non-attainment to attainment, and would seek to focus, and prioritize those efforts.

BARRASSO:
Thank you.

Senator Carper.

CARPER:
Mr. Pruitt, you know, we don't often have the kind of disruptions in this room, and in this building, that was witnessing here today. This is extraordinary. It's not unprecedented, but extraordinary.

And people might ask, well why -- why are folks so concerned? Well I'll tell you why they're so concerned. And you'll have to go back to March 3rd, up in Detroit, Michigan, where President-Elect, then Candidate Trump, Donald Trump said these words.

"We're going to get rid of it, EPA, in almost every form. We're going to have little tidbits left, but we're going to take a tremendous amount out." That's what he said during the Republican primary.

And what did he say after the election? Well, November 10th, Fox News with Chris Wallace, he said, "Environmental Protection, what they do is a disgrace. Every week they come out with new regulations."

And then Chris Wallace asked him, "Well who's going to protect the environment?" He said, responded to him and said, "Well, we'll -- we'll be fine with the environment. We'll be fine with the environment."

Well we're concerned that we won't be fine with the environment. Sometimes words do matter. And one of the -- one of the concerns that I have is -- is, he's the president. You would be his nominee. You would be his EPA administrator.

Does all -- all the things that he said in the campaign, do they just go away? In you, he's put somebody in place who has actually defunded, or led to the defunding of the environmental protection unit within your own agency. And yet you've joined in a dozen or more lawsuits, over the last six years, ever since you've been attorney general, in going after the EPA.

That's why you have the kind of concern that you're witnessing here today, not just on that side of the dais, but on -- on this side as -- as well.

You just took an oath. You raised your hand and took an oath to answer the questions, questions that our chairman asked of you. And one of them was a question dealing with your willingness to -- to respond to reasonable questions that are asked of -- of you.

One of the things I ask of you, I submitted a letter, that I think you received in, shortly after Christmas, December -- maybe December 28th, close of business. And in it, I asked a lot of questions. I asked that you try to respond by January 9th.

You didn't respond to one of them by January 9th. You certainly didn't respond to me, not even one. Today's hearing, I just asked my staff, have you responded to any of those questions, in writing, that I asked almost three weeks ago, and to my knowledge, no response has yet been -- that we've received. That's why we have a concern. That's why we have a -- a concern.

Mercury.

PRUITT:
I'm sorry?

CARPER:
I'm going to ask you -- I'm going to start off by talking about mercury. In 2011, the EPA required dirty coal power plants to clean up mercury and air toxic emissions by issuing the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards Rule.

This rule will reduce the mercury and neurotoxin that contaminates our stream, and our oceans, pollutes our fish and harms our children's health. As attorney general, I believe you've been part of at least 14 legal cases against the EPA, in at least three of these cases, against the EPA's rules to reduce mercury emissions from power plants.

Is that correct, just yes or no?

PRUITT:
Senator, we have been involved in litigation around the MATS Rule...

CARPER:
Is that correct, yes or no?

PRUITT:
As I indicated, yes we've been a part of litigation...

CARPER:
Thank you.

PRUITT:
... following the MATS Rule.

CARPER:
It's my understanding that at least one these cases against the mercury rule is still pending. Is that correct? Just yes or no.

PRUITT:
I believe so, Senator. Yes.

CARPER:
In the cases against the mercury rule, you questioned the EPA's determination that mercury emissions from power plants are harmful to health, and should be regulated.

To be clear, have you ever supported a case against the EPA that claimed, quote -- this is a quote, "Human exposure to methyl mercury resulting from coal fired power plants is exceedingly small"? Yes or no.

PRUITT:
Senator, that's not a yes or no answer. And if I may -- if I may...

CARPER:
Fair enough.

PRUITT:
OK.

CARPER:
This position seems to question a, an EPA decision in 2000, in which the agency determined, after almost a decade of study, that -- this is a quote from them, "Mercury emissions from power plants pose significant hazards to public health and must be reduced," close quote.

Would you say the legal cases you've supported in the past directly challenged this agency finding? Yes or no.

PRUITT:
Senator, the -- the challenges we've had, as a -- as a -- as a state...

CARPER:
Yes or no?

PRUITT:
... along with the other states...

CARPER:
Yes or no?

PRUITT:
If I may, Senator -- if I may.

CARPER:
Just -- just hold your fire. Just hold your fire.

PRUITT:
OK.

CARPER:
The legal position you've taken on mercury health also seems to call in question the 2003 testimony from then EPA Assistant Administrator of Air and Radiation, Jeff Holmstead, under George W. Bush, sat right where you're sitting today, and this is what he said.

"EPA is required to regulate mercury, because EPA determined that mercury emissions from power plants pose an otherwise unaddressed significant risk to health and the environment, and because controls, options to reduce this risk are available."

This Bush EPA statement on mercury risk seems contrary to the legal arguments you supported in the past. Is that correct? Yes or no.

PRUITT:

I agree with -- I agree with Mr. Holmstead's position, that mercury is something that's very dangerous to the environment...

CARPER:
Thank you very much.

PRUITT:
... and should be regulated under Section 112.

CARPER:
Are you aware that the last three administrators have publicly stated that the EPA is required to regulate mercury from power plants because of the health risks? Yes or no.

PRUITT:
I believe that mercury should be regulated under Section 112.

CARPER:
Thank you very much. According to the EPA -- my time is about to expire. I'll just hold -- hold it for there. Thank you very much, Mr. -- Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Carper.

Senator Inhofe?

INHOFE:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Well, I don't think you had adequate time to answer some of the questions that were asked. Is there anything you'd like to add, to elaborate on...

PRUITT:

Yes, Senator. And thank you. I do want to say, to Senator Carper's concern, with respect to the president-elect's statements throughout the campaign, I believe there is a very important role for the Environmental Protection Agency. In fact, you and I talked about that in -- in your office.

I believe that there are air quality issues, and water quality issues, that cross state line, that the jurisdiction of the EPA, its involvement in protecting our air quality, and improving our nation's waters, is extremely important. And the EPA has served a very valuable role, historically.

After all, it was Republicans who created the EPA under executive order in the 1970, and this body has passed many pieces of legislation since the 1970s, to focus upon improving our air, improving our water quality. And we have much to celebrate.

Actually, those six criteria pollutants, under the MATS program, since 1980, are down 63 percent. We have made progress as a country, but we have work to do, and the EPA has a very valuable role in partnering with the states to carry out those steps to ensure improving our air quality and protecting our nations waters.

So Senator Carper, I'm hopeful that, in response to your concern about the role of the EPA, I believe it's a very valuable role. And it's something that we should focus on, and partner with our states.

With respect to mercury, the litigation that you referred to, there was no argument that we made, from a state perspective, that mercury is not a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112. Our argument focused upon the cost-benefit analysis that the EPA failed to do.

And the Michigan v. EPA case, the Supreme Court actually agreed. So it was more about the process, again, that the EPA was supposed to go through, in regulating mercury, to provide certainty those in the marketplace, not a statement with respect to whether mercury should be regulated or not under Section 112.

Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

INHOFE:

Thank you, General. I've -- I'm glad you brought up this thing about the -- the Clean Air Act. The amendments from 1990, I was one of the co-sponsors. It's been incredibly successful. I mean, you mentioned that we've reduced those pollutants by 53 percent, but what you didn't -- 63 percent, what you didn't add was, that was in spite of the fact that we had 153 percent increase in our economic activity. That's a major thing.

In my introduction, I mentioned this thing that you did that no one could figure out how you did it. Involved a 100-year dispute between not just the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City, and the Chockchaws (sic) and the Chickasaws. You want to share with us how you did that?

PRUITT:
What are you...

INHOFE:
You know, they tried for a hundred years, and you came in and did it in less than a hundred days.

PRUITT:
Yeah, less than eight months in to my administration as attorney general, we were sued, as a state, by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nation with respect to water, in 17 counties in Southeast Oklahoma.

Many of you, if you know anything about water litigation, it generally takes decades to resolve water litigation. We were able to go from August of 2011 until 2016, and negotiate an historic water rights agreement with those two nations, to provide certainty to those that are regulated, to provide a voice to the tribes, in -- with respect to water allocation, and water quality.

And the state has maintained its position of the arbiter of how those permits are allocated as well. So it was a partnership. It was the way things ought to work, when litigation occurs, sitting across the table from individuals, and working together to try to solve the problem.

And Senator, we were able to achieve that in record time, and I'm very proud of what we did, as a state, and as the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nation together.

INHOFE:
Yeah, that's good. I think, also, you got them all in one room, didn't you?

PRUITT:
Yes, sir.

INHOFE:
That works. You may criticize, and some of the people talking about your -- your environmental record, I would like to be sure that people are aware of -- a number of people -- I have some here, that I'll submit for the record, but a guy named Ed Fite is the vice president of Scenic Rivers and the water quality of the GRDA.

This is a person who has really been at the forefront of our Scenic Rivers program. He praises you, saying "I found that General Pruitt has always done right by our scenic rivers. He's done everything constructive that he told me that he would do."

The same thing comes from the North Carolina Department of Environment Quality, Donald van der Vaart, he wrote, "Pruitt is committed to clean air and clean water, and to restoring the EPA to its original mission of enforcing the environmental laws written by Congress."

J.D. Strong, head of the Water Resources Board, he said, "Attorney General Pruitt" and he goes on and praises you. I'd like to know why it is you have become a hero of the Scenic River people.

PRUITT:
Well Senator, as you know, Oklahoma has endured many decades of dispute, with respect to phosphorous levels in the scenic Illinois River. In fact, there's been litigation that's been a part of that dispute for some time.

There was actually a memorandum of understanding that Arkansas and Oklahoma entered into around 2002, 2003, and that memorandum expired during my time as attorney general. There were many in government at the time that said we should just wait on the EPA to come in and address the issue. And I chose a different path.

I actually reached out to my Democrat colleague, Dustin McDaniel, the attorney general of the State of Arkansas, and we were able to negotiate an agreement that had phosphorous levels set at 0.037, scientifically driven, and enforced on both sides of the border, for the first time in history.

And so I think Mr. Fite is actually the head of Scenic Illinois Rivers Commission (sic). He's been center on this issue for a number of years. And I think his good word relates to the work that we did, in my office, working with Dustin McDaniel to achieve that good outcome.

INHOFE:
Yeah. I know my time has expired, but Mr. Chairman, I'd like to enter into the record, at this point in the record, the statement by the Environmental -- the DEQ, that I referred to.

BARRASSO:
Without objection, hearing none.

Senator Whitehouse.

WHITEHOUSE:
Thanks, Chairman. Welcome to the committee, Mr. Pruitt. As we discussed when you and I met, the oceans off of our ocean state are warming, due to fossil-fuel-driven climate change. It is crashing our fisheries, like lobster and winter flounder, and making earning a living harder for our fishermen. I see nothing in your career to give those fishermen any confidence that you will care one bit for their well-being, and not just the well-being of the fossil fuel industry.

In a process that you could replicate in an Oklahoma high school science lab, excess carbon dioxide from fossil fuel emissions is turning our seas more acid. Rhode Island shell fishermen and shellfish growers are concerned. In my colleague, Senator Merkley's state, they've already had oyster spat wiped out for businesses by acidified waters. I see nothing in your career that you would care at all about our Rhode Island shell fishermen.

In Rhode Island, we have bad air days. And because of EPA's work, they are fewer and fewer. A bad air day is a day when people driving into work hear on the radio that ozone from out-of-state smoke stacks has made the air in Rhode Island dangerous, and that infants, and the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties should stay home, on an otherwise beautiful day.

Because those smokestacks are out of state, we need EPA to protect us, and I see nothing in your record that would give a mom taking her child to the hospital for an asthma attack any comfort that you would take the slightest interest in her.

And your passion for devolving power down to states doesn't help us, because our state regulators can't do anything about any of those problems. They all come from out-of-state sources. In this respect, we are very like Delaware.

One of the things I'd like to ask you about here is the connection between you and some of these fossil fuel companies. This is -- these are some of the companies that have supported you. These are some of the political organizations that you've raised money for. You've raised money for them for -- for Pruitt for attorney general, correct?

PRUITT:
Yes, sir. I have a campaign committee that -- yes.

WHITEHOUSE:
And Devon Energy, Koch Industries, Exxon Mobil have all maxed out to that account...

PRUITT:
I'm not aware if it's...

WHITEHOUSE:
... at various times?

PRUITT:
-- maxed out or not, Senator, but they have -- I'm sure they have given

to the -- to that committee.

WHITEHOUSE:
Oklahoma Strong PAC is your leadership PAC?

PRUITT:
It was, yes.

WHITEHOUSE:
It was? And similarly, they gave money, they maxed out to that organization as well, which you control?

PRUITT:
I'm not sure about that, Senator.

WHITEHOUSE:
OK. They contributed to it?

PRUITT:
I'm even unsure about that, as well. I haven't looked at that.

WHITEHOUSE:
You closed your super PAC, Liberty 2.0, but that took fossil fuel contributions as well, correct?

PRUITT:
That -- that particular entity has been closed, yes.

WHITEHOUSE:
Now, you helped raise money for the Republican Attorney Generals Association (sic) while you were a member of its executive committee. They received $530,000 from Koch Industries, $350,000 from Murray Energy, $160,000 from Exxon Mobil, and $125,000 from Devon Energy, a company whose letter you transposed onto your letterhead, and sent as an Oklahoma attorney general document.

Did you solicit, in your role at the Republican Attorney Generals Association (sic), any of that funding?

PRUITT:
I'm unable to confirm if they gave those numbers, Senator, those amounts that you -- there were several on the list there... `
WHITEHOUSE: Did you solicit funding from them, as -- in your role at the Republican Attorney Generals Association (sic)?

PRUITT:
I attended fundraising events as an attorney general, along with other attorneys general, with respect to the RAGA.

WHITEHOUSE:
And did you solicit? Did you ask them for money?

PRUITT:
That...

WHITEHOUSE:
For RAGA?

PRUITT:
As I -- as I indicated, I attended fundraising events with...

WHITEHOUSE:
But that's different. Attending a fundraising is one thing. Asking them, is my question. Did you ask them for money?

PRUITT:
I mean, specifically, you would have to ask about certain -- certain entities. I don't know -- you can go through an entire list...

WHITEHOUSE:
Go through the entities. Koch Industries, Murray Energy, Exxon Mobil,

Devon Energy.

PRUITT:
I did not ask of Koch, or -- or that -- what were the other ones?

WHITEHOUSE:
Murray Energy, Exxon Mobil, Devon Energy.

PRUITT:
I -- I have not asked them for money, for -- on behalf of RAGA.

WHITEHOUSE:
And then we have -- you said to the Chairman that there is nothing that might place you in a conflict of interest, that you have not disclosed. Yet you founded the Rule of Law Defense Fund, which is a dark money operation that supports the Republican Attorney Generals Association (sic), and you have not disclosed any of your solicitations for that entity, nor have you disclosed what money was raised pursuant to those solicitations.

This is an organization that appears to have a million dollar a year budget. So very substantial funds have been solicited. I believe you were its chairman. Will you disclose your role in soliciting money and in receiving money for the Rule of Law Defense Fund pursuant to your solicitation?

PRUITT:
Senator, a point of clarification. I actually did not start, nor initiate the Rule of Law Defense Fund. That is something I didn't...

WHITEHOUSE:
You led it.

PRUITT:
... do. I've been a -- an officer of that organization...

WHITEHOUSE:
OK.

PRUITT:
... for 2016.

WHITEHOUSE:
An officer of it.

PRUITT:
There is an executive staff, fundraisers that actually carry out the functions of that organization. There are many attorneys general that serve on that board. It's not a decision of one. It's a -- it's a decision of those that have been empowered to make those decisions.

WHITEHOUSE:
But you haven't told us anything about that. You haven't told us...

PRUITT:
I have no access...

WHITEHOUSE:
... who you asked money...

PRUITT:
That -- that's a...

WHITEHOUSE:
... from. You haven't told us what they gave, if you asked them. It's a complete black hole, into which, at least a million dollars goes. And based on your record of fundraising, it appears that a great deal of your fundraising comes from these organizations who are in the energy sector and devoted to fighting climate change.

PRUITT:
Some of who -- some of whom I've actually sued as well, Senator. But with respect to the role that...

WHITEHOUSE:
Name one you've sued up there.

PRUITT:
Exxon Mobil.

WHITEHOUSE:
Really?

PRUITT:
Yes.

WHITEHOUSE:
My time has expired. We'll pursue this in further questioning.

PRUITT:
Yeah. We're -- we're involved in -- as I indicated, I think, in -- in your office, we are involved in -- and Senator Inhofe mentioned it in his comments, a situation in Oklahoma where multiple oil and gas companies, ConocoPhillips and others, have defrauded the state, in cleanup, with respect to spills that have occurred. And Exxon Mobil...

WHITEHOUSE:
Yeah, it's a qui tam fraud case. It has nothing to do with the environment.

PRUITT:
Senator, I would -- I would beg to disagree.

BARRASSO:

I think we're going to reserve that for the second -- for the second round.

WHITEHOUSE:
Or I'm sorry. He was coming back to me, so I was responding. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Before heading to Senator Capito, there are two articles I'll be introducing into the record, one from the Wall Street Journal in September, headlined, "Hillary Clinton Raises More than Donald Trump from Oil Industry."

The second article that I'll be introducing for the record is from Politico, from December 27th, by Elena Shore, who quotes American Rising (sic) Executive Director Brian Rogers, quote, "This is a partisan fishing expedition by six liberal Democrats who, combined, have taken more than $1.2 million from far left environmental group, dead set against any reforms to an out-of-control EPA."

Senator Capito.

CAPITO:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Attorney General Pruitt, for being here, for your willingness to throw your hat in the ring to serve. I'd like to quote the ranking member, when he says it's hard work, because it is. The EPA is hard work.

But one of the things you said really struck me, and I -- I believe that the rule of law does matter. And I'm heartened by your -- your passion for that. The regulatory over-reach of the EPA has contributed to economic devastation in my state of West Virginia in the -- in my region.

Data from the Mine Safety and Health Administration shows that 60,000 coal jobs have been lost between 2011 and 2016. Thousands of these are in West Virginia. We're in a desperate situation in our state right now because of this.

We had a field hearing in Beckley, West Virginia, where our WVU economist, John Deskins, said that the coal industry downturn had resulted in a sixth of our Southern West Virginia counties being in a great depression.

For the past eight years, the EPA's given no indication at all that it cares about the economic impact of its policies. Even though Congress has said, very clearly, in the Clean Air Act, and other environmental statutes, that we expect jobs and economic factors to be taken into account -- that's part of the law, in October, a federal court held that the EPA had failed to evaluate the job impact to the EPA Clean Air Act as required by 321(a) of that act, and ordered the EPA to submit a schedule for conducting these economic -- the required jobs analysis.

Incredibly, the EPA told the court it would take two years -- this was just this past -- it was just in the last several weeks, it would take two years just to come up with a plan on how to do the analysis, which, in my view, if that's part of the law that EPA's supposed to be following, they should already have the protocols set up to do an effective and accurate job analysis.

So the court responded like this. "This response is wholly inefficient, unacceptable and unnecessary. It evidences the continued hostility on the part of the EPA to the acceptance of the mission established by Congress."

So I would at -- like to ask you to commit to me that -- to ensure that the EPA will follow the law it is charged with implementing, and do those ongoing evaluation of job losses and economic shifts due to the requirements of the act as required by the law.

PRUITT:
Senator, as you indicated, I really believe that it's important that rule of law is adhered to, because it inspires confidence in those that are regulated. I think, oftentimes, those that are regulated don't know what's expected of them.

They look at a statute. They see the requirements of the statute. And then those that are regulating act in a way that's not consistent with that framework. And so they don't know what's expected of them, and that causes uncertainty, and I think, paralysis, to a certain degree.

So rule of law is something that we should take seriously. It's been at the heart of the litigation that we have initiated, as a state. A lot of times, these cases, as we were talking earlier with Senator Carper, there's a policy or political kind of attention that's drawn to it.

But it really is about process and rule of law, and making sure that the framework that this body, Congress has established, is respected, and enforced. And so I appreciate your comments.

CAPITO:
Well, in looking for the balance, we need to have -- we need to have at least a correct analysis of what the -- the economic implications are of regulations.

It's so important, and critically important that we enforce our environmental laws, and to continue to keep our air clean and our -- get it cleaner and protect our waters. In January of 2014, a storage tank in Charleston, West Virginia, was corrupted and it went into the river.

It was right by the -- the water flow of the -- the major water source in my community. Three hundred thousand people had to do without water for several weeks. It caused a lot of angst, economically, to small businesses. Imagine a restaurant not being able to use water, or you can't, you know, wash your clothes. You couldn't do anything with the water.

But also -- and -- and I share this concern -- concern about the health and the long-range implications of what's happened, several people, multiple individuals and Freedom Industries have pled guilty into environmental crimes in federal court, which I'm very pleased about.

So let's talk about TSCA, because in TSCA, I was able to support a provision that would say that if you -- if you're storing in close proximity to drinking water, you have to take that into consideration when you're reviewing potentially hazardous chemicals.

Can we count on you to work with this committee to make sure that this bipartisan TSCA reform bill is fully implemented, and efficiently and fully?

PRUITT:

Absolutely, Senator. In fact, I would commend the work of this committee, with Senator Inhofe's leadership, in passing that update to the TSCA legislation. For the first time in history, as you know, the EPA has the ability to order testing to address chemicals that are going to be entered into the stream of commerce.

And that's a very big, substantive change that exists. There are many deadlines. And...

CAPITO:
And I would also add, that in TSCA -- excuse me just a minute, because I'm running out of time. In TSCA, we actually expanded the EPA's reach.

So when you're asked if you -- if -- if you're, you know, wanting to, you know, get rid of the EPA, or it doesn't have a value, we -- I voted to expand that reach of EPA, to make sure that I have clean water, and that a spill happens in a community around this country, or what's happened in Flint, Michigan, doesn't have the far-reaching implications that it does. Thank you very much.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

BARRASSO:
Senator Cardin.

CARDIN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt...

PRUITT:
Good morning.

CARDIN:
... welcome to the committee. Thank you for your willingness to serve our country.

I want to talk about the Chesapeake Bay Program. We talked about that in my office. I explained to you, and I'll do it very quickly, that this is a program that was developed at the state level, with the states that are in the watershed, including Delaware, with my colleague, Senator Carper.

It's the state that the locals have determined how it's best to reach their pollution targets, in order to help preserve the Chesapeake Bay. It's the largest estuary in the northern hemisphere. It's critically important. It's complicated, doesn't flush itself as -- as many bodies of water does. It's, has a reduction of oyster crops. There's so many problems.

All the stakeholders have gotten together. They've worked out a plan. The federal government is part of that plan. It's enforced through the TMDL program, and it has been agreed to by the local governments.

It was challenged, the TMDLs, including -- you joined that lawsuit. The Supreme Court refused to overturn the court of appeals' supporting the use of the TMDLs. If you are confirmed, will you support the federal role in the Chesapeake Bay Program, as envisioned by the partners and stakeholders, in enforcing the TMDLs, if necessary?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. And as I indicated in our office, in our time -- the time that we had together, I really commend the six states that joined together to address the Chesapeake Bay, and to try to set a level for both point source and non-point source type of discharge into the Chesapeake Bay.

There were some concerns about the precedent, the role that EPA was playing, initially. But through that litigation, the EPA has acknowledged that their role is more informational. And -- and there was concern in Oklahoma about the Mississippi River Basin, and the precedent that was set in that matter, and that's what spawned our litigation.

But I really want to emphasize to you, that process represents what should occur. For states to join together, and enter into an agreement to address water quality issues, and then involve the EPA to serve the role it's supposed to serve, is something that should be commended and celebrated.

And as it relates to enforcing that TMDL, I can commit to you that, in fact, I will do so.

CARDIN:
Part of the federal government's partnership is to provide resources. There are several programs that fund initiatives within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Probably the largest is the state revolving funds dealing with wastewater.

Will you support the federal government's partnership through funding these programs that are critically important to make the advancements in the Chesapeake Bay watershed?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. I believe that the grant-making role of the EPA, as we talked about in your office, is very important to states across this country, whether it's the revolving funds, or the WIFIA portions of our statutes, but grant-making, in general, is very important, and I will commit to you, in that regard, that -- that -- would -- I would do so, with respect to the Chesapeake Bay.

CARDIN:
I want to continue on clean water for one moment. We've had significant problems with safe drinking water, and clean water. The -- let me ask you preliminary question. Do you believe there is any safe level of lead that can be taken into the human body, particularly a young person?

PRUITT:
Senator, that's something I've not reviewed, nor -- nor know about. I -- I would -- I would be very concerned about any level of lead going into the drinking water, or in -- obviously, human consumption. But I've not looked at the scientific research on that.

CARDIN:
The Clean Water Act provides for a federal guidance as to acceptable clean water. It's enforced by the states. So my question to you, in regards to clean water, is what steps will you take to make sure that our children are safe?

We saw, in Flint, Michigan, a tragedy occur. Where do you think the federal government needs to strengthen its regulatory roles, to make sure that our children are safe from -- from lead?

PRUITT:
Well I think, with Flint, Michigan, it's an example of -- or not -- a delay in response by the EPA. There should have been more done on corrosion control programs, with the Flint, Michigan system. As you know, under the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act, if there's an emergency situation, the EPA can enter an -- an emergency order to address those kinds of concerns.

I think there should have been a more fast response, a more -- a more rapid response to Flint, Michigan. I think, with respect to water quality, it is -- it is infrastructure. Water infrastructure is important. And -- and as you indicated, the states play a very vital role in that process. And there needs to be more cooperation between the EPA and the states to ensure water quality is protected.

CARDIN:
Just so I understand it, you have filed, and participated in several lawsuits against the EPA's involvement, saying that the locals should have the responsibility. If you are confirmed, will you support federal enforcement, particularly in multi-state issues, where the only way we can get enforcement is at the federal level?

PRUITT:
I believe that is a vital role of the EPA, as I've indicated in your office, with air quality, water quality, issues across state line. There is an enforcement mechanism that is important. And -- and would seek to do so if confirmed as EPA administrator.

CARDIN:
Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Cardin.

Senator Fischer.

FISCHER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Pruitt, for being here today, but also for accepting the nomination. It -- it is a service and a sacrifice, not just for you, but for your family, as well, to step forward to serve this country. So thank you, sir for...

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

FISCHER:
... being willing to do that. For your testimony, I do thank you. And I'd like to, first of all, let you know that Nebraskans, they've been really affected by the EPA in many instances, and I will give you some examples of that.

Nebraska's public power utilities are grappling with how they could ever comply with the EPA's carbon emission reduction mandates. The City of Omaha is struggling with the agency's expensive CSO mandate, and drinking water affordability.

Nebraska farmers are waiting on new crop technology products that are stuck in a broken regulatory process. Our biofuel investors and producers are desperate for certainty under the RFS. Homebuilders, transportation stakeholders and local county officials are concerned about the jurisdictional expansion to control our state's water resources.

Communities and small business owners fear that the EPA's ozone mandate will stunt potential economic development and growth in our state. As a result of the activist role the EPA has played for the past eight years, families are concerned about the futures of their livelihood.

We all want clean air. You know, we all want clean water. That is one point that I know each and every person here agrees on. But with the EPA's tremendous impact on Americans' lives, each and every day, it is important that the agency be open, transparent, and answerable for its actions.

Given these concerns, along with the many others that have been, and will continue to be discussed today, what steps will you take, as the EPA administrator, to provide relief for American families, that are faced, truly, with an onslaught of EPA rules?

PRUITT:
Senator, you mentioned open, transparent rulemaking. There are concerns that have been expressed recently, with -- with respect to regulation through litigation, where groups initiate litigation against the -- the EPA, and the United States government, and set environmental policy through something called a "sue and settle" process.

I think this body, as well as the U.S. House, have looked at those kinds of issues. And when we talk about open transparency, there's a reason why the Administrative Procedures Act exists. It is intended to provide notice to those that are going to be impacted with rules, to give them an opportunity to offer comment, and -- and to inform the regulators on the impact of those rules.

And then it's the obligation of the regulator to take those things into consideration in finalizing rules. Otherwise they act in an arbitrary and capricious way. And so it's very important that that process be adhered to, to give voice to all Americans, in balancing the environmental objectives we have, but also the economic harm that results.

And the Supreme Court has spoken about that rather consistently, of late. And I would seek to lead the EPA in such a way to ensure that openness and transparency.

FISCHER:
You know the -- a couple of weeks ago, we had a -- I think we held a very good conversation about our shared vision for the EPA, to bring common sense and accountability back to that agency. And I -- I think that's going to go a long way in restoring confidence in the agency by the American people.

One issue we did discuss was the Renewable Fuel Standard, and its importance to my home state of Nebraska. We are the largest ethanol producer west of the Missouri River. Our neighbors to the east, Senator Ernst's home state, they do lead the nation in ethanol production.

So honoring the congressionally mandated timelines and the volume requirements that are critical, from an investment point of view, and -- and also from a planning perspective, I think that this is especially relevant, and especially during the -- the current farm crisis that we are seeing, and the negative impact on -- on people and agriculture all across this nation.

In our meeting, you did express your commitment to me to honor the law. And you echoed President-elect Trump's support for the statute itself, and a strong RVO. And for the record, can you please, once again, express your commitment to uphold the congressional intent of the RFS?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. And you said it well, to honor the intent, and the expression of the Renewal Fuel Standard statute is very, very important. It's not the job of the administrator of the EPA to do anything other than administer the program according to the intent of Congress, and I commit to you to do so.

FISCHER:
And you...

PRUITT:
And the waiver -- and I would say this. The waivers that routinely are offered by the administrator -- recently another waiver was offered. It should be used judiciously. There's a reason why congress put in that statute those statutory objectives.

The market has changed since 2005, and the waiver authority that's been provided by this body is important. But it -- that waiver authority should be used judiciously. And the act should be complied with and enforced consistent with the will of Congress.

FISCHER:
Thank you, sir. And I would ask that you also tell us publicly what you told us, that you will honor the timelines, on the volume levels that are mandated by Congress, as well.

PRUITT:
Yes. Yes. Yes, Senator.

FISCHER:
Thank you very much.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Fischer.

Senator Merkley.

MERKLEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over a number of years, information started pouring into EPA that the estimate of the amount of fugitive methane escaping in gas and oil drilling, have been deeply underestimated. In 2011, the EPA put out its best estimates, based on the information that was being presented.

And this is relevant because methane is a -- a global warming gas, more potent than CO2. Gas companies didn't like this, because well, it presented a vision natural gas being more damaging, environmentally, than folks had previously understood.

Devon Energy is one of the groups that sought to cast doubt on this scientific information, and they came to you to be their spokesperson. And they asked, will you be our mouthpiece in casting doubt, and send a letter we have drafted to the EPA? And you sent that letter.

And I just want to ask, first, are you aware that methane is approximately 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a global warming gas?

PRUITT:
I am, Senator. It...

MERKLEY:
Thank you.

PRUITT:
The impact on human health...

MERKLEY:
That's the -- that's the answer. Yes. Thank you. It's a yes/no question. And on a 1 to 10 scale, how concerned are you about the impacts of fugitive methane in driving global warming?

PRUITT:
Methane, as you indicated, has a...

MERKLEY:
One to ten scale, highly, ten, very concerned, or one, not so concerned?

PRUITT:
The quantities of methane in the atmosphere, compared to CO2 is less, but it's far more potent, and it is simple...

MERKLEY:
Are you concerned? I'm asking about your level of concern.

PRUITT:
Yes, yes.

MERKLEY:
Highly concerned?

PRUITT:
I'm concerned.

MERKLEY:
Thank you. Do you acknowledge sending this letter to the EPA in October 2011?

PRUITT:
Senator, that is a letter that's on my letterhead, that was sent to the EPA, yes, with respect to the issue...

MERKLEY:
Do you acknowledge that 97 percent of the words in that letter came directly from Devon Energy?

PRUITT:
You know, I've not looked at the -- the percentage of similar...

MERKLEY:
The statement that's been analyzed many times is that all of the 1,016 words, except for 37 words, were written directly by Devon Energy.

PRUITT:
Senator, that was a step that was taking as attorney general, representing the interest of our state. Over 25 percent of our...

MERKLEY:
Yes. So I didn't ask that question. I was just asking if you copied the letter, virtually word for word. You've acknowledged that yes, it's in the -- it's in the record. People can count it. It's correct. All right.

So a public office is about serving the public. There is a public concern over the impact of methane on global warming. There is scientific research showing that it's far more devastating than anticipated, and far more is leaking than -- but you used your office as a direct extension of an oil company, rather than a direct extension of the interest of the public health of the people of Oklahoma.

Do you acknowledge that you presented a private oil company's position rather than a position developed by the people of Oklahoma?

PRUITT:
Senator, I -- with respect, I disagree. The efforts that I took as attorney general were representing the interests of the State of Oklahoma.

MERKLEY:
Earlier you said you -- you -- you...

PRUITT:
And there was a concern about the...

MERKLEY:
No. No, excuse me. I'm -- I'm asking the questions. You said earlier, you listen to everyone. In drafting this letter, you took an oil company's position, and then, without consulting people who had diverse views about the impact, you sent it off. How can you present that as representing the people of Oklahoma when you simply only consulted an oil company, to push its own point of view for its private profit?

PRUITT:
Senator, there's an obligation the EPA has, to follow processes as established by this body. The cost-benefit analysis, under Section 112, is something that they have to engage in. There was a concern about the over-estimated percentages that the EPA put in the record.

It was a record-based challenge. That was the expression of the letter to the EPA, and it was representing the interest of an industry in the State of Oklahoma, not a company.

MERKLEY:
Thank you. So...

PRUITT:
An industry.

MERKLEY:
So my question was, what other groups, environmental groups, or other groups, did you consult, so you had that full perspective before representing simply a for-profit oil company, using your official office and your official letterhead?

PRUITT:
There -- I -- I consulted with other environmental officials in Oklahoma that regulate that industry, and learned from them, with respect to the concerns about the estimates that were provided by the EPA.

MERKLEY:
Could you provide this committee with information showing who you consulted, and representing this letter, specifically, for Devon Energy? Because the information that's in the public realm only shows that they simply sent you a letter, asked you to send it, and you sent it, without questions.

PRUITT:
Yeah, we have seven or so individuals in our office that are involved in these kinds of issues, and we will collect the information they have and provide it to this body, pursuant to the chairman's direction.

MERKLEY:
Your staff expanded substantially while you were in charge, to 251 staff members. Why do you need an outside oil company to draft a letter when you have 250 people working for you?

PRUITT:
Senator, as I've indicated, that was an effort that was protecting the state's interest in making sure that we made the voices of all Oklahomans heard on a very important industry to our state...

MERKLEY:
You said that...

PRUITT:
... concerning record...

MERKLEY:
... all heard, but you only sent it on behalf of a single voice, the oil company. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
I still have some time remaining from my questioning. Are there anything that you'd like to add, that you haven't felt you've had a chance, in terms of answering fully, some of the areas of the questioning?

PRUITT:
I think, Senator, that the clarification, that the -- the letter that was sent to the EPA was not sent on behalf of any one company. This was not particular to Devon Energy, not particular to Chesapeake, not particular to other companies in our state. It was particular to an industry.

The State of Oklahoma has an oil and gas industry that is vibrant to our state, as you might imagine, just like many of you have industry in your state. There was concern expressed by that industry, many folks in that industry, about the over-estimating that occurred with that methane rule.

That was the communication to the EPA. It was the position of the state, not the position of any one company.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Senator Moran.

MORAN:
Chairman, thank you very much.

General Pruitt, welcome to the committee. I thank you for your public service. I'm going to see if I can get through three areas in the five minutes that I have.

First of all, WOTUS, waters of the United States, despite there being an injunction against the enforcement of the WOTUS rule, I'm told that EPA Region 7, the region in which Kansas is part, those regional inspectors have increased their inspection of smaller animal feeding operations.

Unlike many states, Kansas has a well-established state permit system for small facilities, as well as the delegated authority under the Clean Water Act. Rather than coordinate, the EPA -- rather than coordinating

with the state agency, the EPA has engaged in its own inspections and its own enforcement on these small facilities, often conflicting with state permitting in the enforcement process.

In these actions, the EPA has claimed jurisdiction over features like grass waterways, culverts under county roads, unconnected to the feeding operation, and not situated in or near any body of water.

General Pruitt, what would your direction be to the EPA staff, to Region 7 and others, in regard to their actions enforcing WOTUS while an injunction is in place?

PRUITT:
Well Senator, as you indicated -- and I do want to acknowledge, the same concerns have been expressed by those individuals in Oklahoma and different groups, with respect to the -- the WOTUS definition that has been offered by the EPA, that is subject to a 31-state challenge, that was consolidated there before the Sixth Circuit. And as you indicated, there has been a stay of enforcement against that particular rule.

The Supreme Court actually, last Friday, took up a matter of jurisdiction on that -- on that case, so that adds some complexity to this. But I think the role of the EPA, prospectively, is to -- to seek to provide clarity on -- on what the true definition, what the best definition is, with respect to waters of the United States.

As you know, there is much flexibility and discretion there, given to the EPA, in a series of cases that lead up to the Rapanos decision, that haven't provided a tremendous amount of clarity. The best thing the EPA can do, going forward, is to reestablish that clarity so that states and individuals know what's expected of them in compliance.

MORAN:
General, thank you. I don't think I need to -- to remind you, in particular, about the role that states play in clean water.

But I -- but I would take a moment to highlight something that is often, I think, forgotten in the regulatory world of water, water quality, is the Department of Agriculture, the natural resource conservation service in which landowners are assisted, through the Department of Agriculture,

in improving water quality and water quantity, in a very partnership-oriented, local effort, that is significantly different than the tremendous reach from the EPA in Washington, D.C., as compared to the local efforts by landowners, themselves, to work with USDA to solve problems.

Let me move to my second question. It revolves the Flint Hills. That's a native grassland in our state. The owners of those grasslands -- these are thousands of acres of grass, they burn the prairie in the early spring, for purposes of regeneration of that grass.

It is learned from the Indians. Lightning used to be the method by which that grassland burned, less so now, with the settlement that have occurred of our country. And as a result of that annual burning, that is ecologically desirable, there is times in which a city, even one of our own, Wichita, for example, is no longer in it -- no longer in -- it's been a non-attainment under the Clean Air Act.

And I raise this issue to you, in asking that you work -- if you are confirmed, you work to -- with the State of Kansas, in our local efforts to manage the burning of the national grasslands, in a way that is advantageous to wildlife habitat, at the same time, is done in a timely fashion at appropriate times, in appropriate amounts that preserves the air quality, but again, not a heavy-handed approach, that one-size solution or a ban fits the circumstance.

PRUITT:
If confirmed, Senator, I look forward to working with you on that issue.

MORAN:
I thank you for that. And finally, I want to highlight a small town in Kansas named Pretty Prairie, a typical name, or a perfect name for a town in our state. Pretty Prairie, Kansas has a population of about 700 people.

For several decades, because of the need to -- because of high nitrates in the water, the city's water levels -- I didn't say that very well. Because of high levels of nitrate in the city water system, the city has provided free bottled water to its citizens.

And my question to you is, now the EPA is disallowing that practice and requiring the city to spend approximately $2.4 million, and raise the rates of our residents of that community by $80 a month, while the community seemingly is satisfied with the solution of the city providing an alternative to the expense of a new water treatment plant.

I ask this question as, again, as an example of where a rigid decision, as compared to a community-based decision, seems to prevail at the EPA, and would give you an opportunity to confirm to me what I hope you would say is that you will work with communities.

You, as an Oklahoman, and me as a Kansan, and many of the members of this committee, represent lots of communities in which the population is insufficient to meet -- to be able to pay for the cost of water or sewer treatment. We need financial resources to accomplish that, but we also need common-sense solutions to the problem.

PRUITT:
Senator, I look forward to working with on that issue as well as the other. There was a saying in the environmental space, national standards, neighborhood solutions. And I think it's important for the EPA administrator, those in Washington, to learn, as I indicated -- as I said in my opening statement, to listen and learn from those, from you, with respect to the needs of your community and your state, and collaborate with you and local officials to achieve good outcomes.

MORAN:
I look forward to educating you on behalf of Kansas.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Moran.

Senator Booker.

BOOKER:
Good morning, Mr. Pruitt.

PRUITT:

Good morning, Senator Booker.

BOOKER:
I have a letter that I read, that you sent to the committee last year, and you said that the Oklahoma attorney general, you said, "I am responsible for protecting the welfare of Oklahoma citizens." I assume that's still correct, and you believe that?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

BOOKER:
And during the past six years, in pursuit of that, if you look at the record of the lawsuits you filed against the EPA, you've had -- you joined or filed 14 lawsuits against the EPA, challenging clean air and clean water rules, yes?

PRUITT:
We've been involved in multiple pieces of litigation, Senator.

BOOKER:
Yeah, but I'm looking at, specifically, 14, and Mr. Chairman, I'd like to put those 14 lawsuits into the record, where you specifically challenged the EPA on air quality. And let me just go through some of those.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

BOOKER:
Thank you, sir.

To refresh your recollection, you filed two lawsuits challenging the EPA Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. You filed a lawsuit challenging the EPA's 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone. You filed four lawsuits challenging the EPA's Clean Power Plan.

You have sued to challenge the EPA's 111(b) standards for carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants. And you also sued to challenge the EPA's federal implementation plan for Oklahoma under the Regional Hayes rule. You're familiar with those, I imagine?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

BOOKER:
And you filed a lawsuit challenging the EPA Cross-State Air Pollution rule, something, in New Jersey, we're very concerned with. And are you aware that that rule, which you lost, in that suit, scientists estimate that that, alone, prevents 400,000 asthma attacks, nationally, each year. Are you aware of those explanations?

PRUITT:
Yes, Your Honor. Or yes, Senator. May I offer a...

BOOKER:
I appreciate your promoting me to judge.

(LAUGHTER)

BOOKER:
Let me continue, Mr. Pruitt. I don't have that much time.

PRUITT:
OK.

BOOKER:
So each of these lawsuits that I just went through, and that we analyzed, all of them challenge attempts by the EPA to reduce air pollution. In all of them, except one, you filed those lawsuits joining with polluting companies that were also suing the EPA.

And so, in addition to filing those lawsuits, with some of the polluting companies, or at least one that have now been specifically mentioned by two of my -- two of my colleagues, you used substantial portions of the letters from those companies, put them on your official attorney general letterhead.

And what was sort of surprising to me is that, when you've been asked about this in the public, you basically represented that that's actually called representative government in my view of the world. Your testimony here says that you were representing industry. You were representing the polluters.

And so with all of these lawsuits you filed, and with all of these letters, like this one, written to the EPA on behalf of the industries that are causing the pollution, it seems clear to me that obviously, the fact pattern, on representing polluters, is clear, that you worked very hard on behalf of these industries, that have their profits externalize -- negative externalities, are there pollution.

And so, I just have a question for you, specifically about the children of Oklahoma. Do you know how many kids in Oklahoma, roughly, have asthma?

PRUITT:
I do not, Senator.

BOOKER:
Well, according to data published by the nonpartisan -- very nonpartisan group, the American Lung Association, more than 111,000 children in Oklahoma, which is more than 10 percent, more than 1 in 10 of all the kids in Oklahoma, have asthma. That's one of the highest asthma rates in the entire United States of America.

Now, this is a crisis, similar data, for where I was mayor, and I can tell you firsthand the devastating impacts that kids with -- that asthma has on children and families, affecting their economic wellbeing. Parents who have to watch their children struggle to breathe. People that have to miss work, rushing their kids to the hospital.

One in ten kids having a disease, missing school, is a significant problem. And so you have been writing letters on behalf of polluting industries. I want to ask you, how many letters did you write to the EPA about this health crisis?

If this is representative government, did you represent those children? I want to know what actions you've taken, in the past six years, in your capacity of protector of the welfare of Oklahoma citizens, to protect that welfare of those 111 children -- over 111,000 children.

Did you ever let any of them write letters on your letterhead, to the EPA, and did you even file one lawsuit, one lawsuit, on behalf of those kids, to reduce the air pollution in your state and help them to have a healthy life?

PRUITT:
Senator, I've actually provided a list of cases to the Chairman with respect to enforcement steps we've taken in multiple pieces of environmental litigation. But let me say to you, with respect to cross-state air pollution, and some of the cases you referred to, the state has to have an interest before it can bring those cases, as you know.

You can't just bring a lawsuit if you don't have standing, if there's not been some injury to the State of Oklahoma. And each of those cases, before...

BOOKER:
My time's expired, but if I could just say, injury, clearly asthma is triggered and caused by air pollutants. Clearly there is an air pollution problem. And the fact that you have not brought suits, at any of the level to which you've represented the industries that are causing the pollution, is really problematic when you're going to sit in a position that is nationally supposed to be affecting this reality. And asthma, in our country, is the number one reason why children in America, health reason why children in America miss school.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

BARRASSO:

Thank you very much. I'd submit for the record, first, an article from the Tulsa World, from Scott Thompson. The headline is, "EPA Will Be in Good Hands with Scott Pruitt." Scott Thompson is the executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

It talks about the excellent work done, and ends with the quote, "EPA will be in good hands with Scott Pruitt." The -- I would point out that between 2004 and 2008, and we'll submit this for the record, the most recent employers of the Obama administration's senior EPA officials sued the EPA, with 12 lawsuits at least, in the time that, when George W. Bush was in his second term, including Lisa Jackson, Assistant Administrator Cynthia Giles, Gina McCarthy, and Stephen Owens. They were petitioners and plaintiffs, filing suits against the EPA.

And finally, I'll submit a -- an editorial, where -- to point out that -- this is from the -- back to the Tulsa World, "Over the past six years, Pruitt's legal team has consistently shown deference to the legal expertise and professionals at DEQ," the Department of Environmental Quality. This was written by the executive director.

"More importantly," he said, "I cannot recall an instance where they did not allow us to pursue legal action when deemed necessary." And then finally, from Mike Turpen, who is the former chairman of the Oklahoma Democratic Party, he said, "The job at the EPA is the essential mission of guaranteeing clean air and clean water. Pruitt has never compromised those critical components of a healthy population with any actions he has taken."

Senator Rounds.

ROUNDS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Welcome, Attorney General Pruitt.

PRUITT:
Thanks, Senator Rounds.

ROUNDS:

I noticed that -- that you didn't have the opportunity, in the time allotted for Senator Booker's question. Would you care to finish your response, with regard to the -- the role that the states have, and their ability to either participate in a suit, and whether or not they have standing? Would you like to finish your thoughts on that?

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

And Senator, as I indicated in our office, in your office, when we spent time together, the enforcement role in the State of Oklahoma is different than other states, with respect to the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. We have multiple agencies -- the Department of Agriculture, that have front- line enforcement authority with respect to our environmental laws.

The role that we play, in my office, largely is a general counsel role. We provide guidance and direction to those agencies. There are many cases we have initiated in conjunction with them, but -- but mainly, those agencies enforce actions at their level. Many of those agencies have dozens of attorneys on their staff, and a general counsel in their own right, bringing those enforcement actions.

You mentioned several of the cases, from MATS to clean -- cross- state air pollution and the rest. I believe the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule is a very important statute that EPA should enforce. I believe that if there's downwind states that are contributing to non- attainment in up -- or I'm sorry, upwind states that are contributing to non-attainment in downwind states, that there should be responsibility for those states.

We have that issue with Texas at times. And so, the lawsuit was not questioning the authority of the EPA to regulate under the Cross- State Air Pollution rule, it was more that they were trying to assess damages against certain states that were in excess of their allocated share.

So each of those cases, I would ask you to remember, I'm an advocate in behalf of the State of Oklahoma. There's a state's interest, as Senator Rounds indicated, that has to be in play. To say that any of those cases is about any one -- any one company, is just simply not right.

There's no parens patriae standing that I have as attorney general, to bring a case on behalf of a private citizen or a company. There has to be a standing, an injury to the state's interest, to bring those cases. And so I would ask you to consider that as we go through those cases you mentioned earlier.

Thank you, Senator Rounds.

ROUNDS:
Thank you. Thank -- thank you. And thank you, sir, for your response, your complete response. Also, as the chairman of the subcommittee on oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency, I've had the opportunity to look at their -- their basis for the way that they make their decisions known, and the logic the use in getting to those decisions.

We had a chance to talk about it in my office the other day, and one of the items that I brought up was the fact that we actually had received comments from the Small Business Administration Office, of advocacy, a copy of which I've gotten, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to have put into the record. Thank you.

And with this, this was a letter that was sent to the EPA in October of 2014, requesting that the EPA withdraw the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule, the WOTUS rule, and reevaluate the impacts the rule would have on American small business. Now this is a federal agency requesting the EPA take a second look at a proposed rule.

The EPA refused this request and issued the final rule that we have today. What are your thoughts on this? And would you, if you are approved, and -- and become the next administrator of EPA, would you take a second look at whether or not they had a valid reason for having the Waters of the U.S. rule considered again?

PRUITT:
I think, Senator, the response of the Sixth Circuit, and where we are presently, with the litigation, there are definitely need -- there's definitely a need to address that on a prospective basis. Historically, as you know, under the Clean Water Act, and even before the Clean Water was passed, the waters of the United States, equaled Navigable Waters, navigable-in-fact waters.

We know, from a couple of cases, that led up to the most recent case, Rapanos, that the Clean Water Act is simply more than navigable- in-fact, but what that more is has to be determined and assessed.

And so, as I indicated earlier, to another Senator's question, the most important thing is to provide certainty, to make sure that the Clean Water Act helps those at the state level know where the boundaries are, of where they have jurisdiction and where they don't, so that we can have regulations that are fair and equitable, and uncertainty is not created.

BOUNDS:
In the lawsuits that you have brought against the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the State of Oklahoma, would it be fair to say that a number of those are based upon the Environmental Protection Agency failing to follow its own rules, and the promulgation of those rules?

PRUITT:
Yes. Yes, Senator. I think, whether it's the MATS case, or the Clean Power Plan case, or the WOTUS case, or a multitude of cases, the courts have agreed that the EPA has exceeded its authority, that the EPA has not acted within the framework that Congress has established, in performing the role that it's supposed to perform.

That's the reason I mentioned, in my opening statement, that process matters, rule of law matters. Federalism matters. And I'm -- those issues matter because Congress has said so. It is Congress who gives authority to the EPA. The EPA is an administrative agency. It's not a legislative body.

And so it's important for that agency to act within framework, within the substantive authority that Congress has provided it, in doing its job. And in -- in leading the EPA, if confirmed, I think, if you -- if I do that effectively, it will provide confidence, certainty to those that are regulated, to know what's expected of them, and improve our air, improve our water because of that.

ROUNDS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Rounds.

Senator Markey.

MARKEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This morning, NOAA, NASA has declared 2016 the hottest year in the 137-year-old record that has been kept. Donald Trump has called global warming a hoax caused by the Chinese. Do you agree that global warming is a hoax?

PRUITT:
I do not, Senator.

MARKEY:
So Donald Trump is wrong?

PRUITT:
I do not believe that climate change is a hoax.

MARKEY:
OK. That's important for the president to hear. Mr. Pruitt, you've made a career working on behalf of the fossil fuel industry to eviscerate regulations designed to protect public health and the environment. You have sued the EPA 19 times to stop clean air and water protections.

Eight of those cases are still ongoing, including your litigation that challenges critical rules that reduce levels of hazardous smog, mercury and carbon pollution. As EPA administrator, you would be in a position to serve as plaintiff, defendant, judge and jury on these ongoing eight lawsuits, and that would be wrong.

In your ethics agreement, you have said that you would not participate in any matter that is ongoing litigation within one year. But Mr. Pruitt, isn't it correct that these lawsuits may very well continue for much longer than one year?

PRUITT:
Well Senator, I have the letter from the ethics counsel at the EPA, and the one-year time period is intended to address covered entities, entities that I serve in -- in chairmanship, or a officer capacity, the Southern Theological Seminary, the Windows Ministry. Those entities are covered entities.

So if there is a matter that arises before the EPA within a one- year period, a particular matter, a specific case that involves those entities, then a recusal would be in order. But that's really the -- the focus of the one-year timeline.

MARKEY:
But will you agree to recuse yourself from those lawsuits which you brought, as the attorney general of Oklahoma, against the EPA, not just for one year, but for the entirety of the time that you are the administrator of the EPA. Will you commit to doing that?

PRUITT:
Senator, I -- for clarity, I -- I -- I think that it's important to note that the one-year time period, again, is for those covered entities that were highlighted in the EPA letter. With respect to pending litigation -- with respect to pending litigation, the EPA ethics counsel has indicated, with respect to particular matters and specific parties, there will be an opportunity to get counsel from the EPA at that point, to determine what steps could be taken to avoid appearances of impropriety.

MARKEY:
So you will not -- are you saying that you will not recuse yourself from the actual matters which you are suing the EPA on right now, as attorney general of Oklahoma, for the time that you are the head of the EPA?

PRUITT:
I'm not saying that. I'm not -- I'm not saying that at all, Senator.

MARKEY:

You are saying that. Will you recuse yourself?

PRUITT:
I'm saying that -- that the EPA ethics counsel has indicated those cases will require a review by the EPA ethics counsel, and -- and if it involves a particular matter with a specific party, then recusal would potentially be in order. And I would follow the guidance and counsel of the EPA ethics...

MARKEY:
I just think this is a -- this is a clear line for the American public, given your record from Oklahoma of suing the EPA on all of these matters, that if you don't agree to recuse yourself, then again, you become plaintiff, defendant, judge and jury on the cases that you're bringing, that -- right now, as attorney general of Oklahoma, against the EPA.

And that -- the EPA is for all of the people of the United States, not just the fossil fuel industry of Oklahoma. So you're not committing -- and I think that's a big mistake, Mr. Pruitt, to recuse yourself from those cases. It is critical.

And moreover, you also are in a position to initiate regulations that could overturn smog protections, carbon pollution protections that are right now on the books, that you are suing, as attorney general of Oklahoma, to overturn. Would you commit to not regulating, promulgating new regulations in any of the areas where you, right now, are suing the EPA? Would you make a commitment that you would recuse yourself from doing that?

PRUITT:
Let me -- let me be clear, Senator, because we talked about this in your office. And I very much enjoyed the conversation we had there, in addition to this area that we talked about. I have every willingness and desire to -- to -- to recuse, as directed by EPA ethics counsel.

And if -- and if directed to do so, I will, in fact, do so, to recuse in those cases. There is a different -- difference, as you know, between pending litigation in a particular matter, with specific parties, and prospective rulemaking. Rulemaking goes through a process. Rulemaking...

MARKEY:
Look at -- you're the -- what the American people are expecting here, is that EPA doesn't turn into every polluter's ally. The only way to ensure that is for you to recuse yourself from the cases that you have brought, because most of them are to overturn the clean air, clean water, smog regulations.

So to create an appearance of independence, it's critical that you recuse yourself.

PRUITT:
And I will -- I will recuse...

MARKEY:
Otherwise -- otherwise, honestly, people are going to think that it's not just the fox guarding the henhouse, it's the fox destroying the henhouse.

PRUITT:
And that...

MARKEY:
Because you -- you haven't distanced yourself from the actual litigation that you have initiated on most of the key issues that you are now going to have responsibility for protecting, in terms of the public health of the entire country.

PRUITT:
And Senator, I can say to you, unequivocally, I will recuse as directed by EPA ethics counsel.

MARKEY:
And I'm saying to you, is that you should just start out saying, I'm going to recuse myself from anything that relates to any litigation that I have initiated, as the attorney general of Oklahoma, that questions the clean air, clean water, climate change, or smog, or mercury protections which are right now on the books, that the EPA is honored to -- to protect.

And if you don't do that, then we're going to have a fundamental conflict of interest that is presented by your presence as the administrator of the EPA. It just gets down to being a matter as simple as that.

BARRASSO:
The senator's time has expired. Thank you, Senator Markey.

For clarification, will you fully follow the advice of the EPA ethics counsel?

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Just for additional clarification, regarding conflicts of interest, I note the letter to this committee, on January 4th, and I am submitting to the record, "We" -- this is the Office of Government Ethics, "believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest."

And then there was a letter yesterday from Water Shaub, director, Office of Government Ethics, responding to a letter from Senator Carper and other EPW Democrats, regarding Attorney General Pruitt and potential conflicts of interest, and they say, "If the Office of Government Ethics has transmitted a certified financial disclosure report, and an ethics agreement to the Senate" -- which they have, "it means the Office of Government Ethics is satisfied that all financial conflicts of interest have been identified and resolved."

Senator Ernst.

ERNST:
Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thank you, Attorney General Pruitt, for appearing in front of us today. I enjoyed our -- our conversation, both one-on-one, and then in a group setting, as well. And I would like to go back and revisit our discussion on the RFS.

As you know, Iowa is home to 43 ethanol refineries. We are the largest producer of ethanol west or east of the Missouri River. President-elect Trump reiterated his support for biofuels while he was campaigning across Iowa and all across the Midwest. And those areas of the country overwhelmingly supported his candidacy, and led to his victory.

And thank you for stating, once again, that you would honor his commitment to biofuels by carrying out the RFS as intended by Congress. Policy certainty is key for economic growth, and this something that we discussed in my office.

Unfortunately, as a result of uncertainty surrounding the EPA's renewable fuel volume targets in 2014, 2015 and 2016, second-generation biofuel investment decreased, and proposed projects moved overseas. Fortunately, the EPA has recently changed its course and released updated volume targets for the RFS, that meet the levels proscribed by Congress.

If confirmed as administrator, what will you do to continue to provide certainty, so that investment can continue to happen, right here at home in the United States?

PRUITT:
You know, Senator, as you indicated in our meeting, the importance of the infrastructure investment that has occurred, and reliance upon, the law was passed in 2005 and updated in 2007. And as I indicated earlier to Senator Fischer's question, the latitude discretion that has been given to the EPA administrator, with respect to waiving those statutory targets, should be judiciously used.

It shouldn't be automatic. It should be something that the EPA administrator seeks to comply with and adhere to, because of the will of this body. And so I think those waivers, obviously, are in order, but with respect to market conditions, we have less consumption today, fuel efficient vehicles, market conditions have changed since 2005.

But despite that, the EPA administrator should not use that to undermine or to somehow put into question, the commitments made by this body in the Renewable Fuel Standards statute.

ERNST:

Thank you for your commitment to the RFS and the intention of Congress. I also want to touch on an issue you mentioned in your testimony, which is the level of fear and distrust many folks have of the EPA. When I'm home in Iowa, I host town halls all across the state, and just want to hear what's going on in their communities.

And what I hear, without fail, at these town halls, is that folks are frustrated with the EPA and the "gotcha" mentality that has stemmed from the agency. My constituents tell me the EPA is out to get them, rather than work with them, and there is a huge lack of trust between many of my constituents and the EPA.

And if we take a look specifically at the WOTUS rule, Iowans truly feel that the EPA ignored their comments and concerns, threw them under the rug, and then just moved forward. We know now that the EPA relied on gimmicky mass e-mails and social media events to prop up their message, and then they used those tactics to insinuate that anyone who had reasonable concerns about the WOTUS rule are somehow in favor of dirty water, which is absolutely ridiculous.

And this type of culture that was created under the Obama administration has no place, has no place here. So Mr. Pruitt, what do you plan to do in your first days as the administrator to improve the relationships EPA has with the hard-working folks across the country?

PRUITT:
Well Senator, as I indicated in my opening statement, this paradigm that we live within today, if you're pro-energy, you're anti-environment, if you're pro-environment, you're anti-energy, is something that I think is just a false narrative. We -- we can do better than that.

In fact, this country has shown for decades that we can grow our economy, and be a good steward of our air, land and water. Cooperative federalism is at the heart of many of the environmental statutes that have been passed by this body. And the reason for that is, it's the states, many times, that have the resources, the expertise, and understanding what the unique challenges are for the environment, in improving our water and our air.

It's not that they don't care about it. Senator Whitehouse indicated a devolution of authority to the states would create a problem. That's not what I'm advocating. And I think we hear in the marketplace, we need a partnership, a true partnership, between the EPA, in performing its role, along with the states, in performing theirs.

And if we have that partnership, as opposed to punishment, as opposed to uncertainty, and duress that we currently see in the marketplace, I think we'll have better air, better water quality as a result.

ERNST:
Thank you. I look forward to that partnership and transparency.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Ernst.

Senator Duckworth.

DUCKWORTH:
Thank you.

Mr. Pruitt, I'm -- I want to clarify your response to Senator Ernst on this whole congressional intent, when it comes to the RFS. What I want to know, and what the people of Illinois -- we are also a great producer of ethanol. And what we need to know is where exactly you stand on the RFS.

Are you the attorney general who, only three years ago, sided with big oil to slam the RFS? You -- and I quote, said that "RFS was unworkable," and also that it was a "flawed program."

So I'm a little confused on what you're saying today, because are you that -- are you that Mr. Pruitt, or are you the Scott Pruitt today, who is saying all the right things in this confirmation hearing and in these meetings to try to reassure pro-RFS states by repeating nice-sounding, but ultimately vague and hollow mantra, that if confirmed, you would enforce the RFS law as written by Congress.

As you and I are quite well aware of, such a statement essentially dodges the critical issue for biofuels producers and workers, because under the law, the EPA has considerable discretion to adjust the renewable volume obligation in a manner that you would argue is contrary to congressional intent, yet may be compliant with the explicit letter of the statute.

So as EPA administrator, you could still technically be in compliant with Congress, with the law, but actually be working against it. And your answers today have not clarified that. So my question to you, Mr. Pruitt, is this.

Which specific actions has EPA taken since 2007, while administering the RFS, that you, in your view, are not consistent with congressional intent? Can you name any?

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator. The administrator and the EPA routinely misses the statutory targets, in publishing those each year, creating great uncertainty in the marketplace. In fact, some -- in some years, they've missed the -- they've missed the timeline, as far as submitting those targets, by over a year, in some cases, over two years.

DUCKWORTH:
OK. So let me -- let me ask you this, then. Yes or no, do you believe that Congress intended for the RFS to increase the amount of renewable fuel blended in our nation's liquid transportation fuel supply? Yes or no.

PRUITT:
Without question. Yes.

DUCKWORTH:
Without question?

PRUITT:
Yes.

DUCKWORTH:
All right. My second question then, is yes or no, do you believe Congress intended for the RFS to be a stable policy that drives private investment in the renewable energy industry?

PRUITT:
Yes.

DUCKWORTH:
And finally, if confirmed, will you commit to opposing any and all proposals to move the point of obligation under the RFS program from refiners to blenders?

PRUITT:
Senator, as you know, the EPA is actually involved in a comment period on that very issue. And to prejudge the outcome of that, I think, would be -- I would not be able to do -- to do that. There are many aspects of the program, from the trading program, the monitoring of fraud in the system, that need to be betterly -- better administrated by the EPA.

These have been administration issues. The EPA has created uncertainty. We talked about it minutes ago -- a minute ago, with the senator, about the amount of investment that's gone into the infrastructure because of the 2005 law.

Those individuals need to have certainty and confidence that the RFS is going -- is going to be enforced and administered pursuant to the desires of Congress. That...

DUCKWORTH:
Right. But if you were to do that, then you would actually have to answer -- you would have to answer yes, because to move the RFS program from refiners to blenders is actually one of those ways that you can actually undermine the RFS standards as intended by Congress, which you yourself just now said was intended to increase the amount of biofuels blended into the fuel supply of the United States.

This is my problem. You -- on the one hand, your entire track record shows you to be someone who opposes the RFS, and yet here, in front of Congress, and in meetings with senators, you are giving these vague answers that sound right when it comes to the RFS, but really opens all sorts of back doors for you to oppose the Renewable Fuel Standard.

And that is very troublesome, because all across the Midwest -- you know, for those of us who have fought to strengthen national security by lessening our country's dangerous dependence on foreign oil, I'm really incredibly concerned about the future of the RFS and American-produced biofuels under a Scott Pruitt-led EPA.

And I'm also incredibly concerned about what you're going to do in terms of protecting the environment. In your answer to one of my colleagues about what the role of the EPA is, what is the job of the EPA, one of the first questions you got, you spent five minutes talking before you actually said, protect the environment.

You talked all about reducing EPA's influence over states for a good five minutes before you actually got the environment. And then for my farmers, my corn and soybean producers for my biofuel industry, the RFS is critical in order to continue that.

And I would rather burn American made, American corn -- grown corn and soybean in my gas tank, than I would oil from the Middle East. I've already been to a war fought over oil in the Middle East, and I don't intend to allow us to continue to do that, which is why the RFS is so critical, not just for the jobs in Illinois, not just to support Illinois agriculture, but for our national security, when it comes to where we're going to get our energy supply.

I'm out of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Duckworth.

PRUITT:
If I may? Senator, let -- let me say to you, the role of the administrator of the EPA is to enforce and administer the RFS program to carry out the objectives of that statute. Those targets that have been put in that statute by this body need to be respected.

The discretion authority, the waiver authority of the administrator needs to be judiciously used to address those concerns that we've talked about. And so I don't want you to have any concern about the -- the intent, objective or will, if confirmed, of carrying out the RFS mandate or the statute in its whole.

DUCKWORTH:
That very answer concerns me, because you've not actually said that you're going to stick with it.

BARRASSO:
I'd like to submit for the record, two -- one, a letter from the American Farm Bureau Federation, which strongly supports the nomination of Scott Pruitt as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and urges a vote in favor of his confirmation.

The second is a letter from the Democrat attorney general of the State of Arkansas, former Democrat Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, who has this to say about Attorney General Scott Pruitt's work on the stem phosphorous levels in the Illinois River watershed.

He said, "Recent press accounts regarding these efforts unfairly mischaracterize the work that was done by General Pruitt and his team. He was a staunch defender of sound science and good policy, as appropriate tools to protect the environment of his state. I saw firsthand how General Pruitt was able to bridge political divides, and manage multiple agency agendas, to reach an outcome that was heralded by most credible observers as both positive and historical."

Senator Boozman.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, Attorney General Pruitt, for your willingness to serve, and your family. I think everybody at the dais here realizes that these really are family affairs that truly affect everyone.

In recent years, the EPA has made it increasingly difficult for Arkansas to manage its delegated national pollutant discharge elimination system. The -- too often, the permits, rulemakings, or other actions sent to EPA for review, are returned with demands far more restrictive, additional expensive data collections required, and other costly onerous requirements.

New leadership at EPA has an opportunity to correct this coercive federalism, and instead, restore cooperative federalism, as intended. The states have the expertise and local knowledge necessary to administer environmental programs.

Mr. Pruitt, EPA has the opportunity to play a significant role in supporting a move back to cooperative federalism. Can you please explain how you plan to change the EPA-state dynamic? My experience with EPA -- and being on Transportation in the House, being ranking member on Water there, ranking member in the Senate is, the EPA is -- their attitude is, we're with you, unless you come out with a finding that is contrary, and then we're going to do it our way. So can you address that?

PRUITT:
I think, two things, Senator. One, as we indicated earlier, rule of law and making sure that the authority granted to the states, under state implementation plans, delegation under certain clean water provisions, that that's respected.

But also, I think the EPA needs to provide more assistance to the states, in working in partnership, and be proactive. Those regional administrators that we have across the country need to be seen as partners, and not adversaries.

And so I think, restoring that confidence, restoring that relationship, and seeking to do so, is very, very important in carrying out this partnership that we know that exists on the various environmental statutes.

BOOZMAN:
Very good. For the past eight years, EPA has acted as a political arm of the Obama administration time, and time again. We've seen rules developed not based on sound science, but on political ideology.

When rules have been released, states and private sector, and even Congress, have had trouble getting EPA to show the science that helped develop these rules. Under your leadership, can we expect EPA to be more transparent?

In other words, how the rules are being developed, the science behind them. And you've continually alluded to this, and I think it's so important, as administrator of the EPA, can we count on you to base all of your decisions on the rule of law, not on the administrator's or even your own political ideology?

PRUITT:
Absolutely, Senator. In response to the latter part of your question, that public participation is important. There's a reason why, in rulemaking, that you take comment. There's a reason, as I indicated earlier to Senator Ernst, that you involve those that are impacted by rulemaking, because you want to understand the impact, both economically and otherwise, and the benefit of the environment, as well as making sure that you craft rules and regulations that take all those things into consideration.

So hearing the voices of all Americans in that rulemaking process, responding to those comments in the record before rules are finalized, transparency, objectivity, a commitment to process, is very important, in my view, of restoring the confidence of the American people in the rulemaking processes that occur here in Washington, D.C.

BOOZMAN:
So again, releasing the -- the scientific data behind that would be something that you'd very much support?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

BOOZMAN:
Very much. The problem that the EPA, EPW committee has faced with the current administration is a lack of communication. Time and time again, EPA either did not respond to questions from committee

members, or at the very least, took months to respond. Under your leadership, can we expect the EPA to get committee members answers in -- in a timely fashion?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. As indicated in my opening statement, listening is an important role of leadership, and listening to the voices of the folks here in Congress. As I went through and met with many of you, through this process, there were issues particular to your state, that you made me aware of.

And I, if confirmed as EPA administrator, seek to be very active in listening to the needs, with respect to your various states, and respond to this body with respect to questions.

BOOZMAN:
Let me just comment on the -- on the Arkansas-Oklahoma issue. I was the congressman in that district. And so I inherited that in 2001. I'd been working on this for 15 years. And I appreciate you and Attorney General McDaniel doing a very good job of getting things done.

On the other hand, the idea that somehow you were soft -- in fact, I would argue that you -- you know, that the agreement that was reached was way too restrictive, and is probably one of the most restrictive watersheds, as far as phosphorous requirements, of any place in the United States.

PRUITT:
Well, as you know, Senator, in that process, we actually selected a biologist from Baylor University to engage in a scientific study on what the phosphorous levels should be, the numeric quality of the water. And it was determined, at the end of that process, that 0.037 was the right standard, and is now enforceable on both sides of the border, for the first time in history. So it is a very important outcome.

BOOZMAN:
No, I understand. And I commend you on the process. I just -- you know, the implication here is somehow, you know, you were -- you came up with a deal that was -- was too soft. And if anything, I would

argue that it was perhaps a little bit too harsh. So -- but I do appreciate the process. I know that you and our -- our former attorney general were able to do something that had been going on for decades.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

BOOZMAN:
Really appreciate it.

BARRASSO:
Well you've been at it now for about two hours. If you can stay with us till we finish the first round of questioning, we have about five or six additional questions coming. Senator Harris is next, and then we'll break at about 12:30, if that's all right with everybody.

CARPER:
Ask the -- right -- unanimous consent, make a unanimous consent request, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Yes, sir.

CARPER:
I'd like to ask unanimous consent to submit for the record the legal brief against the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule, which Mr. Pruitt supported, and stated in that brief, and I'll just quote, it says, "Human exposure to methyl mercury resulting from coal-fired electrogenerating utilities is exceedingly small," close quote. That's the quote.

I also ask unanimous consent to submit for the record a recent article that quotes, I think, the New York Times. It quotes a 40-year career employee of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, that has him saying these words, "He" -- Mr. Pruitt, "has advocated and stood up for the profits of businesses, be it poultry companies or the energy industry and other polluters, at the expense of people who have to drink the water or breathe the air."

Other -- other statements have been introduced for the record, saying quite a different thing about Mr. Pruitt. I think it's only fair to go to someone who's worked there for 40 years and has quite a different view than the one that he's -- he -- our witness has expressed. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

Senator Harris.

HARRIS:
Thank you, Chairman.

Mr. Pruitt, as an attorney general, I know, as a former attorney general of California, that we, as attorneys general, have several duties, which include representing our clients, state agencies, and also the discretion and power to initiate lawsuits in our independent capacity as attorneys general. Would you agree with that?

PRUITT:
Some states provide more latitude that, than others.

HARRIS:
Does your state?

PRUITT:
Our state has not provided, constitutionally, as much authority as other states, to...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
Have you never -- have you never exercised your independent capacity as attorney general to bring a legal action?

PRUITT:

Senator, I would have to know more specifics about what you're referring to. But in response to your question, it does vary considerably...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
Have you ever exercised your independent capacity as the attorney general of your state, to initiate a legal action?

PRUITT:
Our litigation...

HARRIS:
Yes or no?

PRUITT:
The litigations that we've engaged in, largely have been consultation with agencies that...

HARRIS:
Largely? So you have also exercised your independent capacity as the attorney general of your state. Is that correct, or not?

PRUITT:
I may have, Senator. I don't -- I don't...

HARRIS:
You don't know...

PRUITT:
Yes.

HARRIS:
... if you have or not? You have been attorney general for your state for almost seven years. Is that correct?

PRUITT:
Approaching that, yes. Six years, actually.

HARRIS:
And I've read that you have initiated, and it has been mentioned before, 14 lawsuits in your independent capacity as the attorney general of Oklahoma. And apparently, seven of those cases have been resolved, six of which you have lost.

My question is, I hear that you are a lover of baseball. What would your batting average then be?

PRUITT:
It was generally above 300, which is pretty good for a second baseman.

HARRIS:
Yeah. My calculation is, it's 142. Going -- moving on, would you agree that attorneys, who have the responsibility for doing the work of justice, and particularly as an attorney general, that we make decisions based on propriety and impropriety? We make decisions based on what is not only an actual conflict, but what is an appearance of conflict. Would you agree that's important?

PRUITT:
I believe that's important, Senator.

HARRIS:
OK. And so, on this issue of whether or not you would be recused if you are nominated and actually voted in as the administrator of the EPA, you have said that you will recuse yourself from the cases your office has been involved with if directed to do that. Do you agree that you also have the discretion to recuse yourself from those cases?

PRUITT:
I -- I believe, Senator, the rules of professional conduct, in addition to the review that OGE, ethics counsel and...

HARRIS:
Do you believe that you have the discretion to recuse yourself from the cases that you were involved with as attorney general?

PRUITT:
I think it's actually stronger than that, Senator. I actually have an obligation, in those instances, as directed by ethics counsel. And that's the reason I indicated earlier, that I will...

HARRIS:
Independent of any direction from ethics counsel, do you agree you have the discretion to recuse yourself from those cases?

PRUITT:
I believe that it's important to maintain...

HARRIS:
I'm asking about whether or not you actually have the discretion, the power, to recuse yourself.

PRUITT:
Part of -- part of the...

HARRIS:
Do you disagree or agree with that?

PRUITT:
Part of the discretion -- part of -- there's a discretion to recuse.

HARRIS:
Clearly. You're familiar with...

PRUITT:
I just want to...

HARRIS:
... the clean -- you're familiar with the Clean Air Act, yes?

PRUITT:
I'm sorry, Senator?

HARRIS:
You are familiar with the Clean Air Act?

PRUITT:
I am.

HARRIS:
And as you may know, Section 209, Subdivision B of the Clean Air Act recognizes California's authority to issue air pollution standards for new motor vehicles that go above and beyond federal standards.

The EPA has historically recognized California's authority to issue new motor vehicle pollution standards that go above and beyond federal standards. In your opening statement, you write, "It is not EPA's mission to be against sectors of industry, in general, or against particular states."

Will you commit, then, to upholding that same standard in recognizing California's authority to issue its own new motor vehicle air pollution standards?

PRUITT:
Now Senator, as you indicated, California was actually regulating those standards before the EPA was actually created, which is why the California waiver exists, under statute.

HARRIS:
Do you agree to uphold that same standard that has been held by your previous -- previous...

PRUITT:

I agree to review that as each...

HARRIS:
... administrators?

PRUITT:
... administrator before me has. It's been granted at times, and denied at times.

HARRIS:
Do you agree to uphold it? Reviewing and upholding are two different points.

PRUITT:
Senator, as you know, administrators in the past have not granted the waiver, and in fact, have granted the waiver. That's a review process that will be conducted...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
What is your intention, sir?

PRUITT:
I don't know without going through the process to determine that, Senator. And would -- one -- one would not want to presume the outcome.

HARRIS:
In the 14 cases that have been previously mentioned, in each of those cases, regulated companies were also a party to your suits. Is that correct?

PRUITT:
In some instances, yes.

HARRIS:
In most of them. Can you name a few instances in which you have filed a lawsuit, in your independent capacity as attorney general, against a corporate entity, for violating state or federal pollution laws?

PRUITT:
Senator, I have a list here that's been provided to...

HARRIS:
Can you name them, please?

PRUITT:
Sure. There's a list that -- that has been...

HARRIS:
Can you name one?

PRUITT:
Yes. The -- the first is the Mahard Egg Farm, involving a CATHO (ph) situation, and a cleanup of a large hen operation, that affected water quality. Celco Manufacturing...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
Did you file a lawsuit in that case, sir?

PRUITT:
I -- I did, Senator.

HARRIS:
OK. And what was the outcome of that case?

PRUITT:
We received a good outcome against them.

HARRIS:
And the name of that entity was what?

PRUITT:
Mahard Egg Farm.

HARRIS:
And can you name any other cases where you have actually filed a lawsuit against a corporate entity for violating federal pollution laws?

PRUITT:
In fact, that case was brought in conjunction with the EPA. And I want to address something, Senator. Earlier, when you say independent capacity, those cases that you referred to, the list of cases were as an extension of the DEQ in the State of Oklahoma, an extension of the agencies at the federal -- the state level, that had authority granted to them by this body that we were...

(CROSSTALK)

HARRIS:
And I understand -- I understand that role, as a former attorney general, but that is you representing your client. I'm asking about your independent capacity as the attorney general of your state. Let's move on.

On the issue of mercury...

BARRASSO:
I would -- I would -- I would suggest that the senator's time has expired.

HARRIS:
Thank you.

BARRASSO:
In terms of moving on. Thank you.

I would like to introduce, for the record, an independent -- a letter, by J.D. Strong, who is the director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, who, in reference to the submission recently by the ranking member, makes reference to the -- that former employee, who is retired from the State of Oklahoma, and is currently serving as vice chairman of the Oklahoma chapter of the Sierra Club.

So that the references are from now, someone who is no longer a state employee, but the vice chairman of the Oklahoma chapter of the Sierra Club. But this letter from Mr. Strong goes to talk about the efforts by Attorney General Pruitt, who says, "For the past six years, General Pruitt has been instrumental in many of our successes, and has never asked me to compromise regulatory efforts to benefit industry."

He says, "On the contrary, all of our projects and cases that involved his office were given staff support at the highest level, and more often than not, resulted in more stringent environmental protection. He has been a strong ally in defending our ability to continue the great progress that we made in protecting Oklahoma's environment."

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman, may I ask in response, let me just ask for unanimous consent to, for the record -- and this is on behalf of Senator Whitehouse, rebuttal argument -- articles for Mr. Pruitt's claim on litigation against fossil companies.

Topline points from these articles are one, that they are fraud cases, first and foremost. Second, some were brought by his predecessor, Drew Edmondson. The case -- third point, case against BP was filed and left dormant, at least per E&E publication. And also that Mr. Pruitt fought against the participation of state whistleblowers in the litigation. That was a reference to a qui tam action. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

Senator Sullivan.

SULLIVAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And General Pruitt, it's good to see you again. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

SULLIVAN:
And to your family. As you know, it's a team effort, so I want to thank them as well.

I appreciated your opening statement, particularly your -- your written statement. And I want to emphasize, we all want clean air. We all want clean water. My state of Alaska has some of the cleanest air, cleanest water, pristine environment, literally, in the world.

But your emphasis on the ability to do both, to grow an economy, to develop our resources responsibly, and protect the environment, I think, is very, very important, and I appreciate that focus. I believe the EPA needs a serious course correction. As Senator Ernst talked about, there's a lot of anger, even fear of this agency throughout many parts of the country.

And I believe you are the right person to provide that course correction, and do something that is very important, which is regain the trust of the American people, that I think has been lost, in a lot of places in America because of the over-reach, because of the lack of focusing on the law.

So there's been a lot of discussion this morning about cooperative federalism. And can you explain it in a little more detail? Is that your term, or is that a term that -- did you come up with that? Or is that something that was actually directed by Congress?

PRUITT:
Directed by Congress, Senator.

SULLIVAN:

And so, in the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, who was given -- what entity, in our Republican form of govern was -- government, was given the primary responsibility over clean air and clean water in the United States?

PRUITT:
Well as you know, Senator, under the Clean Air Act, there are some -- there's something called state implementation plans, that the EPA and the states review together. But the states have that responsibility...

SULLIVAN:
So is it an...

PRUITT:
... of adopting a plan.

SULLIVAN:
Isn't it correct, actually in the law, it says...

PRUITT:
It is.

SULLIVAN:
... the primary responsibility, under the Clean Air Act and clean water -- and who directed that?

PRUITT:
Congress.

SULLIVAN:
OK. So when you're talking about cooperative federalism, that's not some Scott Pruitt-invented -- you are focusing on the intent of the Congress?

PRUITT:

Probably more so than any statutes that have been adopted by Congress, historically, the environmental statutes that we know, from clean water to clean air, to Safe Drinking Water Act, in many pieces of legislation, Congress has been very explicit, very specific in saying, that cooperative federalism, the role of the states is important, should be respected, and should be emphasized.

SULLIVAN:
So let me -- let me show you a chart here. This is the Waters of the U.S., and the states and entities that sued to stop that rule, 32 Democrats and Republicans, and Independents. Do you think this is an example of cooperative federalism? And if not, if you're confirmed, what are you going to do to get back to what is not a Scott Pruitt idea, it's the direct direction of the Congress of the United States?

PRUITT:
Senator, when you -- when you think about the relationship between the EPA and the states, the states are not mere vessels of federal will. They don't exist simply to carry out federal dictates from Washington, D.C. There are substantive requirements, obligations, authority, jurisdiction granted to the states under environmental statutes.

That needs to be respected. When it's not respected, that is what spawned most of this litigation that has been referenced here today. And why does it spawn it? Because it matters. It matters that the states participate in the way that Congress has directed, and they've been unable to do so for a number of years.

SULLIVAN:
So again, cooperative federalism, you're carrying out the will of Congress when you're focused on that issue?

PRUITT:
That's exactly right. The expertise, the resources, the knowledge, the awareness of how to fix environmental issues at the local level, is something that's important for the entire country to know.

SULLIVAN:

So I am a former attorney general myself, who has sued the EPA. And some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, you know, judge Booker's comments -- I think he tried to equate a little bit, suing the EPA, not caring for Oklahoma's children. Do you care about Oklahoma's children?

PRUITT:
Without question. I've got a couple sitting behind me.

SULLIVAN:
Fourteen lawsuits -- and again, Senator Boozman mentioned this, what has been the primary focus of those lawsuits? It's not that you don't care about the environment, is it?

PRUITT:
Absolutely not. I mean, it's some -- I care very much about the environment. It's to restore the -- the relationship, and ensure the relationship that Congress has directed, the role of the states in improving our environment.

There's an idea in -- in Washington, that the states, those in Oklahoma, or in Alaska, or other parts of the country, don't care about the water we drink or the air we breathe. The farmers and ranchers, those in industry in the State of Oklahoma that I'm -- most of them are very committed to that. When they have not been, we have taken enforcement action against them.

SULLIVAN:
And -- and just one final question. And a lot of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle spend a lot of time -- and I think Senator Sanders is up next, vilifying the oil and gas industry, as somehow bad actors, polluters. According the America Petroleum Institute, 364,000 Oklahomans work in the oil and gas industry or related service sectors.

Are these people bad actors? Are they polluters? Could you describe -- you talk about the good people in your written statement. Who are these people? And are you representing them, when you're bringing these kind of actions? Are they evil people?

PRUITT:
No, Senator. They're -- they want to comply with the law. They want to know what's expected of them. They care about the air they breathe, and the water they drink, and they want to make sure that the EPA is partnering with state agencies and industry to ensure that that outcome occurs.

SULLIVAN:
And aren't these hundreds of thousands of people part of that industry?

PRUITT:
Absolutely. In fact, 25 percent of our entire state budget in Oklahoma is from that industry. This is a state concern. And more than that, we have significant regulation over this industry. Our Corporation Commission has oversight over many of these issues. And so we have regulatory bodies, from DEQ to the Corporation Commission, to others, that are involved in making sure that the air we breathe and the water we drink is -- is clear, in the State of Oklahoma.

SULLIVAN:
Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Senator Gillibrand.

GILLIBRAND:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Pruitt, for being willing to serve this administration, for your interest in public service, and your past public service.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

GILLIBRAND:
I want to talk to you about some of the constituents in my state and the challenges, the very real challenges we face. First, we had millions of people's lives upended with super storm Sandy, I mean millions of people. We had parents who lost their children, who drowned, because of surges of water coming through their homes, through the streets.

The -- the devastation was literally unparalleled in my state. It was just something we had never seen before. And we are going to be looking to you to protect these families, and protect these communities, because we know, with global climate change, the incidence of super storms and violent weather impacts is changed. It's very, very different.

And you've already told folks that you do believe that global climate change is real. It has been cost by -- caused by human activity. Do you believe also that sea levels are rising?

PRUITT:
Senator, I believe that the EPA, addressing this issue because of the Mass v. EPA case, and the endangerment finding, has obligations to address the CO2 issue. The -- in doing so, they need to involve the processes as set up by Congress. And -- and -- and so I think it's very important to do both.

GILLIBRAND:
But -- but you've studied this issue of sea levels. You do realize they are rising. And it's one of the reason why these storm surges were so high, and devastating communities all across New York City. So I need you to be vigilant, because lives are at stake. And I think you have the purview to do that. Will you be vigilant?

PRUITT:
Senator, we will obviously address those issues that we talked about in your office. And I appreciate your passion on this issue.

GILLIBRAND:

One of the other issues that we talked about, that I think is equally as concerning, is issues of mercury that have been raised, about asthma rates that have been raised, about ground water polluted. I've looked at your record. Most of the lawsuits you filed as attorney general were related to businesses, specifically what was important for your state in terms of employers and businesses.

And the few lawsuits you did file about human safety were few and far between. But this role as the head of the EPA, you're going to have a much more important role to play. And I want to talk specifically about mercury. If you believe that mercury is a threat to public health, but oppose the remedy of reducing mercury air pollution from power plants because it's too costly, what then do you think you should do, or what should be done to address the mercury pollution?

PRUITT:
Let me say, Senator, mercury is something -- it is a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112. It is something that the EPA has authority to regulate and should regulate. It should do so, though, within the -- the framework established by this body. And the Supreme Court said that the EPA did not follow the cost-benefit obligations.

It's not that the -- the benefits have to outweigh the cost. It's just that they simply didn't engage in a proper record-based support for their rule. And so that's -- that goes back to earlier questions with other senators about the process mattering, being committed to the rule of law and the rulemaking authority that Congress has given the EPA, in making sure that, as rules are passed, that they can be upheld in court.

GILLIBRAND:
But I need you also to be worried about human health. I -- I understand there's a cost. But when you're talking about lives, and you're talking about children who can't breathe -- I've been to the emergency room at 2 in the morning with a child who can't breathe. It's a horrible thing.

We've had children die in New York City, because none of their teachers, no administrators in the schools knew what to do when a child has an asthma attack. It's a huge problem. So I need you to care about

human health, and -- and really believe that the cost, when human health is at risk, when people are dying, is far higher than it is the cost to that polluter to clean up the air, and change their processes.

I need you to feel it, as if your children, sitting behind you, are the ones in the emergency room. I need you to know it.

PRUITT:
And Senator, I would say to you, there are certain instances where cost can't even be considered, as you know. Those criteria pollutants, under an act, program, cost is not even a factor, because human health is the focus.

GILLIBRAND:
So let's talk about that. So you and I previewed this in my office. We have a horrible problem in New York State, with Superfund sites, and with ground water that is polluted. We have PFOA in our water. We have the largest PCB Superfund site in the United States in the Hudson River.

When families who don't have money fish in the Hudson River, they eat those fish. They get ill. It is horrible. The contaminants are real. They are pervasive, and they are destroying lives. They're also destroying the economy, because when you have contaminants all over the place, you can't sell your house. You can't put in industries that are relying on tourism.

It's a huge problem. So PFOA is an example of a -- of a chemical that needs to be tested. I need you to put it number one on your list, to test it. And if it is the carcinogen that many scientists have said it is, it needs to be banned.

PRUITT:
The TSCA authority that's been granted by this body -- you and I talked about that in your office, PFOA needs to be addressed quickly, even under the Safe Drinking Water Act as well.

GILLIBRAND:
Will you commit to doing that work?

PRUITT:
Yes.

GILLIBRAND:
Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator.

Senator Harper.

HARPER:
Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request I'd like to submit for the record. One -- and this is sort of in response to a question raised by Senator Harris. And Mr. Pruitt, in his response to a question on whether he had ever filed a lawsuit against a corporate entity for violating state or federal pollution, apparently was not correct.

I want to just submit for the record, a list of cases that have been active under Mr. Pruitt's leadership. And notice which ones were started by his predecessor. And it shows that the case in which he mentioned in his exchange with Senator Harris, I think it was the egg case, was it Mahard -- Mahard egg case, actually was initiated, not by Mr. Pruitt, but by -- by his predecessor. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

And I'd like to submit to the record, as well, having heard that some of my Democratic colleagues have expressed their concerns that Attorney General Pruitt is not open to the finding of science, especially as it relates to climate change, this is not so. I'd like to call the committee's attention to a letter by the -- the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation.

The letter is signed by 130 scientists, economists, legal scholars, policy experts, religious leaders, and over 230 other citizens, urging Attorney General Pruitt's confirmation. The group includes David Legates who's a Ph.D. in climatology, professor of climatology and geography at the University of Delaware.

The author praises Pruitt, stating, "Mr. Pruitt has also demonstrated understanding of, and open-mindedness toward scientific insights crucial to the formulation and implementation of environmental regulation."

The organization's founder and national spokesman, Calvin Beisner, is quoted in the press release announcing the letter as saying the following, "Some environmental activists are determined to prevent Mr. Pruitt's confirmation, painting him as a science denier or a climate change denier."

Mr. Beisner continues, "He is neither. He's a solid, common- sense attorney general who will bring much needed reform to the EPA." Without objection, the letter will be submitted for the record.

Senator Wicker.

WICKER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member. I think it's been a good hearing so far, that we have a lot of information that will, that'll be reassuring to the American people.

One thing I -- I do object to, though, it's something that's happened for years since I've been a member of this committee, and that's somehow to -- to list political contributions and -- and suggest that somehow they make an individual suspect or -- or not qualified.

My dear friend from Rhode Island showed a poster, and showed some contributions, and suggested that based on those contributions, from companies like Southern Company, for example, who's contributed to my campaign, that his appropriateness for the job should be -- should be challenged.

And so I'm glad that the chairman had added to the record, this article from September 6, from the Wall Street Journal, September 6 of last year, pointing out the Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton,

raised significantly more money than Donald Trump, from the oil and gas industry. Individuals who worked for oil and gas companies donated $149,000 to Mr. Trump's GOP campaign, as of the date of -- of July 30, compared with $525,000 to Mrs. Clinton.

Mr. Chairman, I'm glad you put this in the record. And presumably, based on that argument, Hillary Clinton would be suspect, were she to have been nominated for the position of heading the EPA.

Now Mr. Attorney General, let's talk about states as partners. And I enjoyed your exchange with Senator Cardin about the Chesapeake Bay Program. As I understand, you actually applaud the Chesapeake Bay Program, and particularly the way the EPA worked with states as partners. Is that correct? And could you enlarge on that?

PRUITT:
Senator, I -- I absolutely applaud the effort by the states to join together in a six-state coalition to address the quality of the Chesapeake's Bay's water quality. That's what we did in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas did with the scenic Illinois River, that's already been talked about with Senator Boozman and others.

And so I think the effort that they engaged in was something that other states ought to model. And the EPA came alongside, and took that TMDL, and is providing assistance to those six states, with respect to that agreement.

WICKER:
Now with regard to the Clean Power Plan, and the waters of the United States rules, where did those regulations go wrong in this respect?

PRUITT:
Well, with respect to the Clean Power Plan, in the case, as the Supreme Court has actually said -- it was an unprecedented step that the Supreme Court took. Never in history had the Supreme Court issued a stay against a rule like the Clean Power Plan. And they did so because of the likelihood of success on the merits, in the sense that the Clean Power Plan didn't -- did not reflect the authority of Congress given to the EPA to regulate CO2.

As an example, with respect to power generation, there has to be a significant finding that it poses risk to public health and welfare. They did not do that. They did not go through the proper processes of inside the fence and regulations of facilities, power generation facilities. So those matters, Senator, are about rule of law. And the same is true with the waters of the United States rule.

WICKER:
Now, you know, and I have not delved into this as an attorney, as you have, but I can tell you that the Department of Environmental Quality in my state told me very emphatically, that the Clean Power Plan would put us out of business, because we -- we would not have had an alternative to the coal that we use. And -- and -- and so I hope we can continue to make progress on this issue.

Let me ask you about wood products. Federal government buys a lot of lumber, uses a lot of wood in construction, and procures a lot of wood. There are standards certifying that the forests are appropriate. One is the American Tree Farm System. Another is the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

EPA seems to like a certification program called the FSC, the Forest Stewardship Council. Problem is, with -- with this -- this certification program, it excludes 90 percent of the lumber grown in the United States of America.

We have had a lot of activity on both sides of the aisle, in challenging this. And -- and I object, also, to a so-called interim recommendation, made by EPA in this regard. As far as I'm concerned, it is discrimination against domestic wood. And now they -- they have come back and told us that this interim recommendation is under review.

Could you comment about both of these, the idea of an interim recommendation being imposed on an entire industry, and also give us any thoughts you have about using the Forest Stewardship Council certification model as opposed to these other perfectly good Sustainable Forestry Initiative and American Tree Farm System?

BARRASSO:
And if I could ask you to it briefly, as the senator's time is about up.

PRUITT:
Senator, as you and I discussed in our meeting, I'm very concerned about the latter issue, and -- and making sure that all voices, all options are considered is something the EPA administrator should do, and I would seek to do, if confirmed.

With respect to the interim step, I think that there is a concern that many have offered, throughout the -- throughout the last several years, that regulators in Washington, not just the EPA, are seeking to use guidance or other steps to avoid what would be called formal rulemaking, that Congress has obligated those agencies to perform, to ensure exactly what you just described, that all voices are heard.

And -- and that's unfortunate when agencies do that, because that's an abuse of the process.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, sir.

WICKER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Senator Sanders.

SANDERS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I apologize for being late, but we were at a hearing with Congressman Price, who is the nominee for HHS, and perhaps not a great idea to have important nominating hearings at exactly the same time. So I apologize for not being here earlier.

My office has received a great deal of comments from people in the State of Vermont, which takes environmental protection very seriously, as well as from all over the country. And the fear is that the nomination of Mr. Pruitt is a nomination designed to protect the fossil fuel industry and not the environment.

I would like to ask Mr. Pruitt a question. I -- as I understand it, earlier in this hearing, you said that Mr. Trump was wrong in suggesting -- in stating over and over again, that climate change was a quote/unquote "hoax." Is that, in fact, the case?

PRUITT:
That is correct, Senator.

SANDERS:
OK. Let me ask you this. As you may know, some 97 percent of scientists, who have written articles for peer reviewed journals, have concluded that climate change is real. It is caused by human activity. And it is already causing devastating problems in our country and around the world. Do you believe that climate change is caused by the emission, by carbon emissions, by human activity?

PRUITT:
Senator, as I indicated -- you weren't in here during my opening statement, but as I indicated in my opening statement, climate -- the climate is changing, and that there -- human activity contributes to that in some manner.

SANDERS:
In some manner?

PRUITT:
Yes, sir.

SANDERS:
Ninety-seven percent of the scientists who wrote articles in peer reviewed journals believe that human activity is the fundamental reason we are seeing climate change. You disagree with that?

PRUITT:

I believe the ability to measure with precision, the degree of human activity's impact on the climate is subject to more debate on whether the climate is changing or whether human activity contributes to it.

SANDERS:
While you are not certain, the vast majority of scientists are telling us that if we do not get our act together, and transform our energy system away from fossil fuel, there is a real question as to the quality of the planet that we are going to be leaving our children and our grandchildren.

So you are applying for a job as administrator for the EPA, to protect our environment. Overwhelming majority of scientists say we have act -- got to act boldly, and you're telling me that there needs to be more debate on this issue, and that we should not be acting boldly?

PRUITT:
No, Senator. I -- as I've indicated, climate -- the climate is changing. And human activity impacts that.

SANDERS:
But you haven't told me why -- why you think the climate is changing.

PRUITT:
Well Senator, the job of the administrator is to carry out the statutes as passed by this body, and to comply with the...

SANDERS:
Why is the climate changing?

PRUITT:
Senator, in response to the CO2 issue, the EPA administrator is constrained by statutes...

SANDERS:
I'm not -- I'm asking you a personal opinion.

PRUITT:
My -- my personal opinion is -- is immaterial...

SANDERS:
Really?

PRUITT:
... to the job of -- to the job of carrying out...

SANDERS:
You are going to be the head of the agency to protect the environment, and your personal feelings about whether climate change is caused by human activity and carbon emissions is immaterial?

PRUITT:
Senator, I've acknowledged to you that the human activity impacts the...

SANDERS:
Impacts?

PRUITT:
Yes.

SANDERS:
Scientific community doesn't tell us it impacts. They say it is the cause of climate change. We have to transform our energy system. Do you believe we have to transform our energy system in order to protect the planet for future generations?

PRUITT:
I believe the EPA has a very important role in regulating the emission...

SANDERS:
You didn't answer my question.

PRUITT:
... of CO2.

SANDERS:
Do you believe we have to transform our energy system away from fossil fuel, to do what the scientific community is telling us, in order to make sure that this planet is healthy for our children and grandchildren?

PRUITT:
Senator, I believe that the administrator has a very important role to perform in regulating CO2.

SANDERS:
Can you tell me, as I think all of us know, Oklahoma has been subjected to a record-breaking number of earthquakes. Scientists in Oklahoma -- or scientists say that Oklahoma's almost certain to have more earthquakes, with heightened risk of a large quake, probable, to endure for a decade, and that the cause of this is fracking.

Can you point me -- picking up on Senator Harris' discussion with you, can you point me to any opinion that you wrote, any enforcement actions you took against the companies that were injecting waste fracking water?

PRUITT:
Senator, let me say, I'm very concerned about the connection between activity in Oklahoma and...

SANDERS:
And therefore you must have taken action, I guess. Can you tell me who you fined for doing this, if you're very concerned?

PRUITT:
The Corporation Commission in Oklahoma is vested with the jurisdiction. And they have actually acted on that.

SANDERS:
And you have made public statements expressing your deep concern about this?

PRUITT:
We have worked with -- there are two...

SANDERS:
You have made public statements -- you're in a state which is seeing a record-breaking number of earthquakes. You're the attorney general. Obviously, you have stood up and said you will do everything you can to stop future earthquakes as a result of fracking?

PRUITT:
Senator, I've acknowledged that I'm concerned about...

SANDERS:
You acknowledged that you are concerned?

PRUITT:
Yes.

SANDERS:
Your state is having a record number of -- well, if that's the kind of administrator for the EPA -- your state's having a record-breaking number of earthquakes. You acknowledge you are concerned. If that's the kind of EPA administrator you will be, you're not going to get my vote.

BARRASSO:
Senator Inhofe.

INHOFE:

Mr. Chairman, you see a request. I ask, at this point in the record -- at this point in the record, that we reprint the Wall Street Journal op-ed piece that was written by two outstanding scientists, called "The Myth of the Climate Change 97 Percent."

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

I have a little bit time left in my questioning from the first round. I just, I wanted to talk about some of the concerns of over- regulation and let me ask, do you have the same concerns of the over- regulation of U.S. manufacturing over the last eight years? I believe it's exported manufacturing jobs overseas, jobs that go with them, in terms of the manufacturing of those goods, to places like China and India, that are going to produce those products in a less environmentally friendly way.

And you'd agree with -- agree with this notion that this approach harms not just our -- the environment, but also our own U.S. economy?

PRUITT:
I believe, Senator, that it puts us at an economic disadvantage, when we don't hear all voices in the rulemaking process with respect to these issues. Absolutely.

BARRASSO:
I'd also like to submit for the record, one, an -- a op-ed on CNN by Jeb Bush, saying, "Scott Pruitt is ready to turn around the EPA, that I cannot think of a person more suited to lead the Environmental Protection Agency than Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt. He has acknowledged human impact on the climate, and supports a robust discussion about its effects and what the government should and shouldn't do to address it."

And then also submitting for the record, a -- a report that -- that I did as a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, of this committee -- this was a couple of years ago, called, "Red Tape Making Americans Sick."

I put this together as a physician, where we talk about unemployment, long-term unemployment increases the likelihood of hospital visits, illnesses, premature deaths in communities, due to joblessness. It hurts children's health, hurts family well-being, and quote scientists who point that the unemployment rate is well- established as a risk factor for elevated illness and mortality rates in epidemiological studies performed since the 80s.

And additionally, there is influencing on mental disorders, on suicide, alcohol abuse, alcoholism. We also see it with spouse abuse, drug abuse, so that the regulations that come out of the EPA, that do cut into employment of hard-working Americans, actually contributes to a deterioration of their health. I don't know if you have any comments on that, or what you may have seen in Oklahoma at times of unemployment.

PRUITT:
Senator, we have seen similar issues in Oklahoma. We have prescription drug abuse that occurs at rates that are unprecedented, as in other parts of the country. And so there is a similar concern that we have in Oklahoma.

BARRASSO:
It is -- I appreciate your -- your patience, your honesty, your forthright presentation this morning. We are going to go to a second round. I now have a 12 -- about 12:45.

If it's all right with you, Ranking Member Carper, we'll come back in an hour. We'll take an hour break and come back and resume in the second round of questioning at 1:45. The committee is in recess.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

(RECESS)

BARRASSO:

We'll resume the confirmation hearing for Scott Pruitt EPA Administrator. And, Attorney General Pruitt, let me just start by saying, sometimes you get a chance to sit down over lunch, and you say, "I've been answering questions for two and a half hours. You know, I wish I had said something differently about something or other." Anything that you'd like to clarify?

PRUITT:
Just one point of clarification, in response to Senator Whitehouse's questions this morning about different environmental enforcement steps we've taken. With respect to the leaky underground storage and double-dipping in our state, I've initiated, officially, three cases there with respect to Valero, BP, and Conoco.

Exxon and a number of other cases are still in settlement discussions, and so those cases have not materialized in actual litigation just yet.

BARRASSO:
Thank you for that clarification. Anyway, a couple of quick questions. In the city of Cheyenne, Wyoming, it was discovered that trichloroethylene, that's a chemical that's been used by the military to degrease the engines of rocket motors, was seeping into the cities drinking water supply.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which was in charge of a nearby former Atlas nuclear missile site, refused to even admit that the site was the cause of the pollution. I fought the Corps on this to do testing needed, to prove what was obvious to everyone who looked at it. The test results showed a large plume coming from the Atlas site directly into the city's wells.

The court is now addressing the pollution of the city's water supply. It's now protected through a state-of-the-art water treatment facility that's installed by the corps. But, can you give me a -- perhaps an example when you served as Oklahoma State Attorney General where you went after polluters, and you held them accountable in that same way?

PRUITT:

Yes, Senator. As I indicated earlier -- and I think this was indicated in -- in -- in this morning's testimony, I mentioned the case with the (inaudible) producing (inaudible), and that was something that we actually initiated. I know there was some question that Senator Carper raised in that regard.

That was both in respect to federal and state violations and we actually joined the state of Texas and the EPA in that enforcement action. But, I've submitted for the record, as you know, a list of cases where we've worked with the Wildlife Commission in Oklahoma, the DEQ, around (inaudible) matters and enforcement of our state laws.

BARRASSO:
The -- it's interesting. What was troubling to many of us in the previous administration was when officials within the Obama administration went to extraordinary lengths to avoid disclosing their official written communications under the Freedom of Information Act. This is the law that allows public access to government records.

For example EPA administrator Lisa Jackson, at the time, used an EPA email account under the name of Richard Windsor -- Richard Windsor, as opposed to her own email account. And so, if confirmed, will you refrain from taking any such action that makes it difficult or impossible for the public to access your official written communications under the Freedom of Information Act? PRUITT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And as I indicated in my opening statement, I really believe that (inaudible) participation, transparency, and rulemaking is very important, and I think that extends to this matter as well. BARRASSO: I will reserve the reminder -- remainder of my time. Senator Carper.

CARPER:
Thanks. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. We -- as -- as we discussed before, you're part of -- I think -- at least three lawsuits, Mr. Pruitt. I think one is pending on the -- the EPAs efforts to reduce mercury emissions from power plants.

And we know that 50 percent of our nation's mercury emissions come from -- from power plants. Not nuclear plants, but generally fossil fuel plants, largely coal fire plants. We know that there are more fish consumption advisories in the U.S. for mercury than I think all other contaminants combined, including in your home state of Oklahoma.

If you believe that the EPA should not move forward on the -- the Mercury and Air Toxics rule, how do states clean up mercury? What do you think are the health impacts of mercury emissions?

PRUITT:
Senator, I actually have not stated that I believe the EPA should not move forward on regulating mercury or -- or adopting rulemaking in that regard. Our - our challenge was with regard to the process that was used in that case, and how it was not complicit with the statutes as defined by Congress.

So, there is not a statement, nor a belief that I have, that mercury is something that shouldn't be regulated under section 112 as a hazardous air pollutant. I have, as you know -- that is a -- that section deals with directly health concerns of our citizens.

That's the reason why there is controlled technology that is very heightened in that statute, Maximum Achievable Control Technology, that - that is required. And so, I believe that mercury should be dealt with, and dealt with in a meaningful way by the EPA, but subject to the processes that this body has outlined.

CARPER:
Senator (inaudible) and I worked together for a number of years on Clear Skies legislation. The George Bush Administration had proposed Clear Skies dealing with sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and mercury. And several colleagues of my own, including Senator Alexander worked on legislation similar.

One of the differences between what we proposed and the Bush Administration proposed, was with respect to reducing the emissions of mercury. I don't recall exactly what the Bush proposal called for in terms of emission reductions from -- from power plants, and others from mercury but it wasn't very aggressive.

I proposed a -- a reduction of 80 percent over a certain number of years. Senator Alexander said he thought that folks could do better than 80 percent, and he proposed 90 percent reduction schedule.

We had literally here at this table, witnesses from utilities, and one witness from a trade association, representing technology companies that focused on reducing emissions of harmful substances into our air and to our water. Every utility representatives said, "We cannot meet an 80 percent reduction in mercury."

The witness from the trade association representing the - the industry, in which -- and this is just to try to reduce emissions like mercury -- said not only can we meet -- industry can we meet those reductions over the stipulated period of time, they can exceed them. As it turns out, they exceeded them.

They actually did better than 80 percent. She did better than 90 percent. They did it more quickly than I think was anticipated. Is that instructive to you in any way on this question?

PRUITT:
Is that what? I'm sorry.

CARPER:
Instructive to you. Is there any lesson there for you or for us from that experience?

PRUITT:
Well, as I've indicated Senator, I really believe that it's important that it's a partnership between the EPA and the states. I made reference to the phrase earlier, "national standards and neighborhood solutions."

I -- I think that that shows that the EPA can be involved, and should be involved, in setting standards, setting objective, science- based standards, to improve air quality and protecting the health of our citizens, but also be a meaningful partner with the states in implementing those laws.

CARPER:

Let me just stop you there, please. The -- I like to say, "In adversity lies opportunity." That's not me. That's Albert Einstein. But the -- there is economic advantage to be gained from cleaning up pollution. We've seen it.

There's companies that worked on the mercury emissions, they made money doing that -- installing that technology around the world. Similarly there has been money made from Diesel Emission Reduction Act. The American technology reducing emissions from -- from old diesel -- diesel engines.

Have you -- do you ever give any thought to that, the economic gain, the economic advantage that can flow from developing that technology to reduce emissions? I actually think that some regulations, clear regulation -- and I'll never forget a conversation we had with -- when we were working on our Clear Skies legislation, addressing foreign pollutants, meeting with a bunch of utility CEOs, and we're talking about how to go forward on this -- that issue.

And at the end of the conversation, one of the utility CEOs, I think it was (inaudible), older fellow, and I don't remember where he's from, but he said -- at the end of the day, he said, "Here's what you need to do." -- you, us, Congress, CPA -- "You need to tell us what the rules are gonna be. You need to give us some time, some flexibility. And you need to get out of the way." That's what he said.

Tell us what the rules are going to be, give us some flexibility, and get out of the way. Do you believe that actually setting standards -- whatever it happens to be, with mercury reductions with (inaudible) standards, with fuel efficiency requirements, that actually setting those standards, making it clear, that we actually provide certainty and actually open the door for economic -- economic productivity -- production?

PRUITT:
I do, Senator, actually.

CARPER:
Can you give us an example where you actually saw that happen -- were helpful in making that happen?

PRUITT:
In Oklahoma-- this is not widely known because we are known as an oil and gas state, but -- but in the generation of electricity in our state, 17 percent of our electricity is generated through wind. And so, we've had a heavy emphasis on renewables. And that puts us in top three of the country.

And so, our corporation commission -- I actually have obligations to appear before the Corporation Commission, in the setting of rates. So, as utility companies are looking at modifying their facilities to comply with environmental statutes, there is great discussion about how to do that more economically, and to achieve the -- the air quality objectives we have, under EPA mandates and state mandates.

And so, I've been very involved in that process, through that part of my office.

CARPER:
Thanks. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Carper. Senator Capito.

CAPITO:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again before being before us and congratulations on your nomination.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

CAPITO:
You know, I think that as you can tell from this committee and really the country, is divided on a lot of the issues in and around involving what you're endeavoring to headline here at the EPA. But I think that understanding one another is extremely important no matter how many times I might say the same thing and somebody else on the other side might say the same thing.

It gives me a greater understanding of where they live and how they -- how they think the best way to pursue environmental issues are. So, in the crowd that joined us here after lunch, are several coal miners, who traveled all morning -- have been waiting in the hall and made some new friends in the audience there and I want to thank them for coming.

Because those are the faces of the issues that I try to address when we're talking about the different facets of the regulatory environment that we see that's been put forth over the last several years.

So this question's for you all. In my very first hearing as a United States Senator on this committee we had the Assistant Administrator, Janet, McCabe, she came to testify about EPA CO2 rules.

When I pressed her about why in the public meetings on the existing plant rules EPA had not bothered to come to West Virginia or for that matter any of the other states that most heavily rely on coal for electricity generation, this is what she said. And I quote, "We tried to when we were scheduling national level meetings we wanted to have those in locations where people were comfortable coming."

Well, Mr. Attorney General, I want you to be comfortable coming anywhere in this country to talk about -- whether it's Rhode Island or whether it's West Virginia, Alaska -- people need to know that you're listening and you care, and that you're understanding the ramifications for the decisions that you make.

So this didn't sit very well for me. We had a meeting after that in Beckley, West Virginia, which is the birthplace of the ranking member and we had Bo Copley there, who was a laid off coal miner. He talked about all the hardships of his friends and neighbors.

We had the county commissioner who talked about the loss of revenue to the county and how it's impacting the school systems, and the real estate values, and the bankruptcies of all of the difficult coal companies, and people who have been out of work.

So I would implore you to commit today to visit West Virginia, both sides of West Virginia and to talk to our coal miners and their families. To talk about what the job and economic impacts, and how we can work together with both sides to try to get to the intended goal of cleaner air, and cleaner water.

PRUITT:
Senator, I really appreciate you sharing that, and that's the reason I mention in my opening statement the importance of listening and leading. This process that I've been a part of obviously is very new, but I spent time with each of you, many of you, in individual meetings and Senator Gillibrand talked about issues that were important to her, around CERCLA.

You cited concerns and issues that are important to you in West Virginia. I think it's a very important if confirmed as administrator that I spend time responding, learning, and listening to you and your respective states and trying to be helpful with regard to the environmental issues that you face.

CAPITO:
Thank you. Thank you, that means a lot. Thank you. I would like to get some clarification on a topic that kind of has been coming up and coming up about how many times you as the Attorney General have sued the EPA. And you began your statement by saying that, "The rule of law is very important to you."

And then you talked about several of the cases, and probably most of the cases that you brought forward, is not challenging the regulations so much as the process or whether the rule of law has been overstepped in the boundaries of the EPA has been the -- intent of Congress by legislating to the EPA has been overstepped.

And the courts have agreed in some cases, that this is the case. Could you kind of restate that position on the -- on the different actions?

PRUIT:
Well, Senator, as I've indicated, I think in response to Senator Sullivan, probably more so than most statutes that are passed by Congress, this body has recognized the very important and vibrant role the states play in partnership with the EPA at implementing and enforcing our environmental statutes.

And many of you have talked about that in your offices. How your DEQ works at the Reginal Administrator. And -- and -- so when we talk about rule of law as you deal with mercury, as you deal with CO2, as you deal

with water issues around what is the definition and in those cases it's important that you do so consistent with the framework that's been established by this body, and it's respected.

Because that gives confidence to the people are regulating. You know, when you have an administrative agency of any type that acts inconsistent or tries to enlarge its authority, it really doesn't inspire confidence, in those that are regulated.

You're seeing a matter of picking winners and losers, and being against certain things, as opposed to protecting people and so that rule of law is not something that's academic in my view. It's not something that's just legal. I think it's important to ensuring good outcomes as far as improving our air and protecting our waters.

CAPITO:
Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator Whitehouse.

WHITEHOUSE:
Thank you, Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, when we left off we were talking about things that, to quote the Chairman, "might place to you in a conflict of interest, but have not been disclosed" and we were talking about the dark money operation that supports the Republican Attorney General's Association.

Before we get back into that, let me ask you this as a hypothetical, if you had raised significant amounts of money for the Rule of Law Defense Fund from corporations who will be subject to EPA's regulation, before EPA, with matters before EPA, might that place you in a conflict of interest?

PRUITT:

The -- the EPA ethics council has said -- and by the way these are career individuals as you know, Senator. Adjusting a few is a career person at EPA ethics and so as they've reviewed these potential conflicts they -- they have -- I've disclosed all entities that I've been affiliated with --

WHITEHOUSE:
I understand that, but I'm asking you if you think it might place you in a conflict of interest because we both understand that the ethics rules that the EPA is enforcing pre-dates Citizens United, pre-date dark money and they've said in the letter they aren't even looking at that because they don't have the authority to.

That doesn't mean it's not a conflict of interest. It means that the regulatory authority on government ethics hasn't caught up with this post Citizens United dark money world. My question is, you're a lawyer, you know conflicts of interest, you've been an Attorney General.

Might it be a conflict of interest within your definition of the term if you had raised significant amounts of money for this Rule of Law Defense Fund and they had business before -- and they'll have business before EPA with you? Is that a potential conflict of interest?

PRUITT:
I think just in -- if you actually did address those entities to the degree that I was never on officer of the super fund that you -- the super pack that you referred to earlier, the Liberty 2.0, and so they looked at those --

WHITEHOUSE:
The question was fund-raising

PRUITT:
They looked at those entities --

WHITEHOUSE:
That's the question we don't have any answers on, is what you raised.

PRUITT:
They looked at those entities to determine what the nature of my relationship was, and then indicated that those would have to be evaluated in the future, as cases arose. And --

WHITEHOUSE:
Right now, the Chairman asked you a question, which is are there matters that might place you in a conflict of interest that you have not disclosed. You answered, "No." Might not having raised significant money, let's say a million dollars.

Let's say you made a call to Devon Energy, and said, "I did your letter for you, (inaudible) needs a lot of money, we've got this dark money thing where we can launder your identity clean off it, and the money will go into (inaudible). I need a million bucks out of you. Might that not create a conflict of interest for you if that were the facts?

PRUITT:
Ms. Few (ph) has indicated, in her letter to me, -- again these are career individuals at EPA ethics -- that if a particular matter involving specific parties arise in the future it will be evaluated at that point --

WHITEHOUSE:
How will they know if you are not willing to disclose that you raised the hypothetical million dollars from Devon Energy?

PRUITT:
Well, those are not even covered entities under her letter at this --

WHITEHOUSE:
That's my point, but that may very well create a conflict of interest, mightn't it?

PRUITT:
Senator, I did not serve in an officer capacity at that entity. In fact --

WHITEHOUSE:
You've said that already too. But that's -- that also not the question. The question is a very simple one, did you raise money for the Rule of Law Defense Fund from entities that will appear before EPA as potential defendants and subject to regulation and if so, how much, and what did you tell them? And what did you ask? It seems to me that's not an unusual or --

PRUITT:
The Rule of Law Defense Fund, according to Ms. Few, would need to be a party in the future for that to be an issue. That's what she's indicated in her letter to me. At the time, if issues arise in the future I will seek the counsel of EPA ethics, involve the advice of those career folks, and make a decision, and recuse if necessary. That is something I commit to doing.

WHITEHOUSE:
But, at this point -- at this point, what I deduce from your statement is that if that set of hypothetical facts were true, if you had raised a million dollars from a big energy corporation to go through the Rule of Law Defense Fund, to support your efforts at (inaudible) that that is not something anybody should care about even if that corporation is before you at EPA and subject to your regulation --

PRUITT:
Oh, I think it's something that if presented in the future, that would -- (inaudible) a few, myself -- EPA ethics would evaluate that and I would take the appropriate steps to recuse if --

WHITEHOUSE:
But, how would it be presented in the future if you are not willing to present it now? Why would it matter in the future and not now?

PRUITT:

If there is a matter -- a case that comes before the EPAs authority. That would be something -- there's ongoing, as you know, Senator, Ms. Few indicated this in her letter -- there's ongoing obligations that I will have if confirmed as administrator to bring those kinds of matters to the attention of EPA ethics.

WHITEHOUSE:
Well, for what it's worth I think that the Senate has a role in policing this as well. That the whole purpose of advice and consent, and the reason there are these government ethics filings, is so that we can look at this exact question.

And the fact they haven't been updated to take into account dark money and all of these big political organizations that have been created with dark money, doesn't take away our Senate obligation to find out what conflicts of interest you will bring to the position of Administrator. And it gives me very little comfort that you're not willing to answer those questions here.

My time has expired. I'll continue in other rounds.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much, Senator Whitehouse. I would like to introduce, for the record, an article, the Associate Press in the Seattle Times headlined, "Ethics Officials Clear Trump EPA Nominee."

It says, "The Office of Government Ethics on Monday, released the personal financial disclosure report for Scott Pruitt, currently Oklahoma's Attorney General. The -- the Ethics Office affirmed that Pruitt's disclosures comply with applicable federal laws and rules.

His finances, it says, are among the least complicated of Trumps cabinet nominees." Senator Boozman.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I -- I really do find it ironic -- ironic and hypocritical that we're in a situation that my friends on the other side of the aisle of this committee using their definition of dark money as elected officials have literally raised millions of dollars of so-called dark money.

The -- I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the over regulatory burden that the states are facing. Air quality in Arkansas, is among some of the cleanest in the nation despite the progress that that the state has made, looking forward try to do the right thing. The Regional Haze federal plan is going to produce a tremendous economic burden on 'em.

I think it's a prime example of the haphazard regulatory atmosphere we that we've had in the past, with little input from the states and stakeholders. For years the regulatory certainty has prevented businesses from hiring new employees, stunting economic growth.

In fact the National Small Business Association that was just released, found that more than half of small businesses have held off on hiring because they don't know what the rules are gonna be.

Can you -- you've mentioned several times -- can you talk a little bit more about the impact that you've seen in regard to regulatory uncertainty in the state of Oklahoma? The experiences you've had.

PRUITT:
Senator, the visibility program, we've had similar challenges in Oklahoma. The Regional Aids Program under the Clean Air Act, that section of the Clean Air Act is really quite a bit different than other provisions of the Clean Air Act. It gives promise to the states in adopting plans to increase or improve visibility.

That particular section of the law says that by the year 2064, that we should have natural visibility in some key areas across the country. Oklahoma several years ago -- actually in 2010, under a different administration, both Governor and Attorney General submitted a state implementation plan that beat that deadline by decades.

But despite that, the EPA came in and rejected that state implementation plan and forced a federal implementation plan on the state, costing consumers quite a bit of money. One thing that I would add that I didn't talk about earlier, we talked about -- we talked about cooperative federalism and the importance of partnership.

I talked about that. You've talked about that. Under this past administration the use of federal implementation plans, if you combine President Bush, President Clinton and President George W. Bush, those three administrations combined, they issued five federal implementation plans under the Clean Air Act, in three administrations.

This administration has issued 56. So it shows an attitude of indifference. An attitude of trying to be dictatorial in some respects toward the state's role or manipulative of the state's role in a way that's, I think, counterproductive for air quality.

BOOZMAN:
So, when you and fellow Attorney Generals, other stakeholders sue the Federal Government whether its Regional Haze or Waters of the U.S. or whatever, your goal is not to do away with regulation, your goal is to make it such that the EPA follow their regulatory authority. Is that correct?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. And in an example I provided to you, where the state implementation plan of Oklahoma that was rejected we actually satisfied the statutory mandate, it was under the regionalized program.

We reached natural visibility a couple decades ahead of schedule. The methodology that was used, the EPA just simply disagreed with it. And so, they used their authority to displace that state plan, costing consumers in the state hundreds of millions of dollars in increased utility costs.

BOOZMAN:
One of the things that -- that I think we've seen also in the last eight years is tremendous mission creep on the part of the EPA where they have gotten into areas where they don't have the expertise.

They don't have the -- the, you know, the well expertise I think would be the best word, in regards to coming out with some of the things they've done where they lack jurisdiction and haven't really been in the past.

Can we count on you to work with the other agencies to take their expertise into careful consideration as we come out with the rules and regulations?

PRUITT:
I think interagency cooperation is very, very important. Obviously with rulemaking that's something that occurs, and should occur, I think, in a very collaborative way. And so yes, Senator, I believe it's very important as the EPA conducts its business, that it works with the core -- works with other agencies at the federal level to ensure that it's doing all it can to advance and protect water quality and air quality. But, do so in the framework established by Congress.

BOOZMAN:
And, does it feel like it's the ultimate decider, again, when they sometimes do not have the expertise of the other agencies?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator. I agree.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you.

PRUITT:
Thank you.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Boozman. Senator Merkley.

MERKLEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, are you -- are you familiar with this piece of medical equipment?

PRUITT:
Yes, an inhaler it looks like?

MERKLEY:
Yes, an asthma inhaler. The -- are you familiar with how many Americans have asthma?

PRUITT:
No, Senator, I'm not.

MERKLEY:
Well, it's about 1 out of 10 Americans including over 7 million children, so it's a pretty significant health problem across the country and I know I have been fortunate not to have asthma, but some folks I know who have and have asthma attacks feel like they're suffocating and sometimes they go into crisis.

People go into crisis with asthma, sometimes they -- they die from it, so it's a terrifying condition. And, the EPA in October 2015 strengthened the national ambient air quality standards for ground- level ozone.

They strengthened it to 70 parts per billion adjusting it from 75 parts per billion, because they argued it was an attainable standard that would save 3 to 6 billion dollars, and in addition of course, greatly improves the quality of life by diminishing the amount of -- of asthma attacks and -- and deaths. And, you challenge this.

You -- you launched a lawsuit against this -- this standard. And, was the basis of your lawsuit cost-benefit analysis, that they didn't follow their process?

PRUITT:
It was not, Senator. As you know, under the Nash (ph) Program, the Whitman (ph) Decision says cost cannot be considered in a criteria pollutant.

MERKLEY:
And what was the standard that you were challenging?

PRUITT:
It was a records based challenge that the need to -- to -- to ratchet down from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion -- as you know the 70 parts per billion had only been in the operation for two years. And I think, Senator, it's important from a priority perspective. A resource perspective of the EPA when 40 percent of the country is in nonattainment for one of those criteria pollutants perhaps there should be focus on how to meet the level already in statute, or already in rule --

MERKLEY:
You challenge this based on the attainability standard? I already know that --

PRUITT:
It was a records based challenge, yes.

MERKLEY:
It's attainability standard. And there were numerous groups that -- that weighed in and said, "No, this is totally attainable." And, I'll submit a list for the record, of that, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

MERKLEY:
And, the key to this is that by implementing that -- by the time it's implemented -- it would save annually 230,000 -- an estimate of course -- asthma attacks among children, 160,000 missed school days, a tremendous number of missed workdays, 630 emergency room visits and 340 cases of acute bronchitis.

But, it also would save -- best estimate -- 320 to 660 premature deaths. So here is something that profoundly affects the health of folks in Oklahoma and folks across the country, folks in my home state of Oregon.

Something that expert after expert said is fully attainable, and you challenge it not on a process issue that is not on whether or not there was a cost-benefit analysis, because as you rightly pointed out, cost is not allowed to be a factor, but whether it was attainable.

So, why fight so hard on the side of the oil industry? Rather than fighting on the side of the health of the people of Oklahoma? PRUITT: Senator, let me say to you with respect to the NASH program, when you look at the nonattainment we have in this country, it's presently around 40 percent. I think increasing the nonattainment percentage, as opposed to focusing resources to get nonattainment into attainment, is a very important role of the EPA.

We should taking those marginal and moderate areas in our map, that are nonattainment, and work with local officials, those counties, through monitoring and assistance to help move from nonattainment to attainment. That is a very important goal of the EPA. In each of these --

MERKLEY:
Thank you. Thank you. You've made your point clear. I just simply disagree with you. None of these standards when they are set are attained. That is the point. It is an objective to be worked at over time. There was a strategy that this might take until 2025 to be fully implemented.

But, in the course of laying out that vision and having folks across the country work towards that vision, you end up saving a tremendous amount of money and a tremendous amount of lives.

And I, as a Senator from Oregon, fighting for the quality of life of Oregonians, deeply resent folks fighting for oil industry, that are trying to damage the health of my constituents, and Americans across this country. It is a question of values.

And valuing profits of companies over the health of our citizens is a character issue and that is what these hearings are all about. We are charged with Hamilton, to determine whether or not an individual is of fit character. To me this is a character issue -- valuing profits over people's health. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:

Thank you, Senator Merkley. I'm submitting for the record a report by the National Black Chamber of Commerce entitled "Potential Impact of Proposed EPA Regulations on Low Income Groups and Minority."

The report goes from 2015, goes on to say that, EPA regulations including its regulation on carbon dioxide emissions would result in the year 2020, nearly 200,000 black jobs would be lost and more than 300,000 Hispanic jobs would be lost and additionally there would be commencement with this a medium household income significant decreases throughout the communities listed in the report. Senator Fischer.

FISCHER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And we're -- here we go again on round two, so I am happy that we have an opportunity to continue questioning with you General Pruitt. Nebraska, much like Oklahoma is a rural state and with many cases the closest town or the neighbor can be located miles and sometimes hours away.

In Nebraska one of four jobs is directly tied to production agriculture. Under this administration farmers and ranchers felt especially targeted by the EPA. For example, in 2011 and 2012, EPA region seven conducted aerial surveillance or flyovers of feed yards in my state. While flying over my state the EPA documented these facilities with photographs.

This was very disconcerting to me given that many livestock producers in Nebraska also live and raise their families on these properties. Not only were these producers not informed beforehand, but the EPA has already delegated the authority to carry out the Clean Water Act in Nebraska to the State Department of Economic -- or Environmental Quality.

What will you do to ensure that the EPA sticks to its core mission and furthermore, how will you work with the regulated community including agriculture to build trust among constituencies that have been I would say the subject of bullying tactics by this EPA that we have now?
PRUITT: Senator, as I indicated in my opening statement some core themes if confirmed as administrator that I would seek to comply with.

One is public participation, full participation to ensure that all voices are heard as the EPA conducts its activities with respect to rulemaking particularly.

And I think that perhaps what you are referring to is a lack of that voice, or opportunity in the last several years. And so, I would work to build a collaborative relationship with those states as I've indicated.

I think the Departments of Environmental Quality at the state level are valuable partners that we need to restore their confidence in the partnership with the EPA and then seek to listen to the community concerns in addressing and responding to environmental issues

FISCHER:
Thank you. In one of her exit interviews EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has admitted that she has had a bad relationship with agriculture and with the agricultural community and she listed it as one of her regrets.

I think a bad relationship is an understatement in this case. This administration's EPA philosophy is diametrically opposed to the idea that farmers can be good stewards of our land, our water, our environment and instead it seemed that this administration's EPA wanted to regulate and in some cases it looked like they wanted to prevent farming.

The agricultural community is looking forward to a new leadership with the EPA and working with you. And Mr. Chairman, I have here some statements from agriculture officials and groups that I would like inserted into the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

FISCHER:
And, if I may, I would close by quoting a few of those. Jim Reese, the Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture says that, "Scott Pruitt will continued EPAs effort to protect our environment, but with respect towards land owners, taxpayers, municipalities, businesses and Congress."

That is nice to hear, sir. Troy Stillwater, Nebraska Cattleman President stated, "Simply put, Mr. Pruitt sees clearly that agriculture and environment are not opposing terms, but rather, they are complementary.

He will work to cultivate the relationships, which will lead to the United States leading in food and fiber production, while improving the environment in which it is accomplished." Again, I am happy to -- to look forward to that relationship being established again, so that all parts of our society here in this country can participate and receive the recognition that we are good stewards of the land.

If confirmed, what -- what will be your relationship with the agricultural community? Are you going to enforce current laws, and will you also respect the limits that we have on those laws?

PRUITT:
Yes, on both accounts, Senator. And also the theme that I mentioned in my opening statement that I would highlight again, is that we -- we need to reject this paradigm that if you're pro- energy you're anti-environment, if you're pro-environment, you're anti- energy.

I believe that we as a country have demonstrated, we've made great progress since the 1970s improving our air quality and protecting our waters. We can grow an economy and also protect and be a good steward of our environment. And we need to restore that proper balance and commitment to both, as we seek to do our job.

FISCHER:
Thank you. As I -- as I said earlier, every member of this committee believes in clean air, clean water. We want an environment that is -- that is respected where we can manage our natural resources in a responsible manner, so thank you, sir.

PRUITT:
Yes, Ma'am.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator Cardin.

CARDIN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, I want to try to get your understanding, I heard you say that you wanted to see the regulations and laws predictable, so that the stakeholders know exactly what is required, so there's lack of -- there's no confusion. So I want to concentrate on the waters of the U.S.

Because, ever since the Supreme Court decisions, there has been an uncertainty as to what waters are in fact subject to regulation by the federal government and what waters are not. Do you believe that, that clarity should be set by statute, or should it be set by regulations from the EPA?

PRUITT:
Senator, I think it's a great -- a great question, and you look at the series of cases going back to Bayview, all the way back to Rapanos. I think that you're exactly right. The definition in the Clean Water Act says that navigable waters, are waters of the United States. That doesn't provide a great deal of clarity to those that administer the law.

And I think the EPA taking steps to provide clarity is important, absent Congress responding. So I -- I think that perhaps there is a time and place for Article I response, Congressional response to what this body means when it says navigable waters, or waters of the United States.

CARDIN:
And, of course, the Congress, for whatever reasons, for a long period of time, has not been able to respond as to what we think the definition of the waters of the U.S. should be. The Administration did come forward with proposed regulations, which were resisted by many of the stakeholders that you are aware of.

How would you -- what did -- what would -- how would you define the waters of the U.S.? What was wrong in the regulation? I don't want to go through all the details, but tell me, you know, where do you think we should regulate?

You already said more than just navigable, so what -- what -- how do we define it? How do you do it? Where did the Administration go wrong?

PRUITT:
The challenge, up until now, with respect to the current rule, this involves actually an error case, the U.R. case where Justice Scalia talked about the counterbalance to Massachusetts EPA where the steps taken by the EPA to take the endangerment finding in 2009 that dealt with mobile -- Title II mobile sources.

And then link that over to the PSD program was something that Justice Scalia said, transformed the statute and was not lawful or constitutional. I think the same thing perhaps is going on with the current rule, that there really isn't -- when you, when you are classifying dry creek beds in Southeast Oklahoma that are dry 90 percent of the year, as a water of the United States, that clear is something that is ...

CARDIN:
Sir, the administration in its regulation had certain exceptions that tried to deal with that. You obviously didn't think those exceptions where clear enough?

PRUITT:
Well, actually the Sixth Circuit said that, that those clarifications were not sufficient. I would agree with you Senator Cardin that I believe the clarity around this definition, the jurisdiction of the EPA is essential to get right and to address.

And as I indicated earlier to some questions, the Supreme Court is actually taken up a matter from last Friday, it's more jurisdictional and not merit based, but the response by Congress, the response to provide clarity perhaps is a very important step to take.

CARDIN:
Well, I want to pursue this and I think maybe ask questions for the record as to specific provisions that you believe should be in that rule that would be than the proposed rule and I appreciate response to that so we can try to see where we're heading in your thought process as to how you define the regulated waters of the U.S. That would be helpful to us.

PRUITT:
And -- and I think Senator, the reason that's difficult, as you know is because in that process, whatever process that would take -- take place, that would be rule making, which means that there'd be comments and ...

CARDIN:
Well, I understand that. I'm not trying to get every I dotted, ever T -- just want to get your philosophy as to where the waters of the U.S. lines would be drawn and where you took exception to the regulatory efforts of the Obama administration.

Let me get to the second point, if I might on fracking. Fracking's an interesting area because it's state regulated principally. There's very few federal regulations. There's been -- and my state has gas deposits that could be subject to fracking and Pennsylvania, our neighboring state has done that.

There's been some problems with polluting -- pollution in water. We know about the gas releases, it's already been talked about. There's some concern particularly with deep well drilling that when you inject the fluids back into the cavities that it may cause instability.

In your state, I know there were a lot of earthquakes. There've been talking about how, whether these earthquakes were motivated by the fracking activities or not. How well have the states regulated fracking and where do you see the federal role should be in protecting our environment from fracking?

PRUITT:
Well, I think -- I'm glad you've mentioned the state role because we've actually been regulating hydraulic fracking in Oklahoma since the late 1940s, early 1950s. It's -- it's not a new process. Horizontal drilling is, but the hydraulic fracturing process is not and many states have been very aggressive at regulating for a number of decades.

With response to -- response to the seismic issue that you're talking about, the earthquakes in Oklahoma, the Corporation Commission has actually declared off limits certain drilling activity in hot spots already. They've taken a very aggressive approach.

And I too share their concern. I've been in conversation with the commissioners at the Corporation Commission. That's who has jurisdiction in this matter. And they have taken, again, very meaningful steps to declare off limits certain drilling activity to try to see if it will it help reduce the number of earthquakes happening in Oklahoma, and it has helped.

CARDIN:
Thank you. Thanks Mr. ...

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Thanks Mr. -- thank you Senator Cardin. Senator Inhofe?

INHOFE:
Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have two unique Senate requests, so don't start my clock yet. One is, I really believe and perhaps I'm a little bit sensitive to this but that, Mr. Pruitt's integrity has been put into question with the accusations of contributions to his campaign.

I'd like to keep in mind that although the oil industry is a huge industry in the United State of Oklahoma. They have things called PACs where the middle income people will say, yes, we are -- you know, they supported me also.

But I would -- I think that we need to have in the record that there are somethings that are going on that should not be going on, and this affects the Democrats and not the Republicans. There's a guy named, Tom Styer (ph), and I'm going to put this in the record, who actually said he was going to put $100 million into campaigns of the individuals talking about the global warming and what they expected. I -- in 2016, he didn't do that.

He only put in -- I'm sorry, '14 -- $75 million of his own money. In 2016, he was the largest contributor putting in $86 million of his own money. I'm not going to read this because it does reflect the names of people who are at this dais. I ask that this, you know, to consent to this being entered into the record.

BARRASSO:

Without objection.

INHOFE:
Another thing --

CARPER:
I'd really like to object -- I need to ask for a clarification from my friend from Oklahoma. The -- the monies that you're referring to, were those donations that were disclosed, fully disclosed?

INHOFE:
Oh yes, I believe they were.

CARPER:
Then that does not sound like dark money to me.

INHOFE:
Well, all right. Anyway on the last question that -- that Mr. Pruitt had concerning the earthquakes, I'd like to make this a part of the record, because I'm surprised, you guys that the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has really focused in on this thing and talked -- and talked about this is waste water and disposal wells that we're concerned with.

They clamped down on it and you're exactly right in your response to the question, except you didn't go far enough. In 2016, they actually reduced the earthquakes by 31 percent. And so we are doing, in the state of Oklahoma something that is -- is -- we've been complemented about, the fact that we are taking the -- taking these -- these actions. So I'd like to make this as a part ...

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

INHOFE:

... of the record. Now, the other thing I want to bring out, and I've done this before but I wasn't going to do it until people kept talking about the scientist and all the sciences, and all the scientists -- and I know that people want to believe that.

But I remember so well, you know -- go ahead and start the clock, that's fine -- I remember so well --

(UNKNOWN)
We just want to make sure that the clock doesn't just get stopped for the Republicans and runs for us.

INHOFE:
You're -- you're...

(UNKNOWN)
Welcome former chair ...

INHOFE:
Yeah, you're a -- you are alert, I would say that to my friend.

(LAUGHTER)

INHOFE:
Anyway, I can remember when I was going to go over to -- with every year the U.N. has a big party, they invite everyone to come -- come in and, I was going to go to Copenhagen to be the one man truth squad, which I did and I went over there.

But during that time, right before I left, I asked the administrator of the EPA, the job that you're I believe going to have, Lisa Jackson, I said, I have a feeling once I leave town you're going to come up with an endangerment finding and you're going to give you justification for getting involved in this -- in this issue.

And she smiled, so I could tell it was true. And I said that when you do this, it has to be based on science. Tell me the science that you are going to use for this. And she said, with the IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Now, as luck would have it, in my luck, not theirs, right after that is when Climate-gate came, and that's when it was disclosed that the individuals, the scientists in IPCC rigged the numbers and came up with such an outrageous lie in terms of what causes global warming, all of that and I'll just read a couple of them here.

One of the physicists in the IPCC said, "Climate-gate was a fraud on a scale I've never seen before." Clive Cook with the Financial Times said, "The closedmindedness of these supposed men of science is surprising even to me, the stink of intellectual corruption is overpowering."

And the U.N. -- the U.K. Telegraph, that's one of the largest in the U.K., the publications, it said, "It's the worst scientific scandal of our generation." Now, nobody talks about that. But that's the science that they are talking about, and I really believe it's necessary to have that as a part of this record of this meeting.

Now, General Pruitt, the -- in 2012, the EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued update -- updated fuel economy standards that were the result of a compromise and that compromise was between the Obama administration, the automakers in the state of California. Right?

And the part of this deal required a review of these regulations in 2018 before -- these are their words, not mine -- before any new standards were put in place. After losing the election however, the Obama administration broke the deal by prematurely issuing new regulations.

This decision was made unexpectedly and well over a year before the EPA said that they'd make the determination. This shortened a time frame and process is concerning. So, Mr. Chairman, I do ask unanimous consent that the previous EPA timeline for the expected action on the mid-term review be included in the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

INHOFE:
And Attorney General Pruitt, as administrator, will you look into this matter to see whether this extreme action was appropriate or a hasty political decision?

PRUITT:
Senator, as you indicated, the obligation was to meet the November 2008 mid-term review -- 2018 mid-term review, and I think the study that was completed, it was finished December 30th and they issued their findings within 14 days.

That time period is something, I'm not sure that, that normally happens as far as the time, the velocity of 14 days, but it merits review and I would review that, yes.

INHOFE:
Well, the follow up question would be, would you commit to sitting down with the Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, and -- I've already talked to her about this incidentally, both of them will be confirmed, I'm convinced and you're working to address the impacts of the EPA decision on automobile manufacturers and consumers ...

PRUITT:
Yes.

INHOFE:
... and worked with her on that -- in that issue.

PRUITT:
Absolutely.

INHOFE:
All right. Very good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator. Senator Booker?

BOOKER:
Thank you very much. Thank you Mr. Pruitt. I just want to jump into one of the areas that you've said is a principle part of one of your achievements. In your opening statement, you said, that as attorney

general you confronted with an important water quality issue on the scenic Illinois River about the high phosphorous levels that were causing a range of problem that come from the manure principally farm animals.

And you go on to state that this was an historic agreement to clean up the river. It was in your opening statement and a number of the documents that you provided. You also described the agreement with Arkansas as an important agreement to reduce the pollution.

Again that was a result from poultry growers, and I'm quoting you actually directly, "That was occurring as a result of pollution from poultry growers." Are you familiar with this?

PRUITT:
Yes, also discharge from municipalities in Northwest Arkansas as well, that ...

BOOKER:
I think that's an important point, yes.

PRUITT:
Yeah.

BOOKER:
I would like to ask you just some question about this, but I think it's important. I really dug into this and did some research. Can you hold -- hold this up. I just want to go through with my colleague what the fact pattern is that lead to what -- this moment where you intervened.

And it really starts with a Supreme Court decision way back in 1992, Arkansas v. Oklahoma. I imagine you're familiar with the Supreme Court decision, that the result between those two states that held that basically up river states, such in Arkansas must comply with the water quality standards that are adopted by downriver states and then approved by the EPA.

You're familiar with that?

PRUITT:
I'm familiar with the litigation, yes.

BOOKER:
So -- so after that Supreme Court decision effective July 1, 2002, Oklahoma actually did adopt a .037 water quality standard for phosphorous and importantly they gave a decade, ten year phase in period before full compliance was required. And then in 2003, your predecessor Drew Edmondson negotiated agreement with Arkansas, which I've read called the Statement of Joint Principles and Actions.

Mr. Chair, I'd like to enter that for the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

BOOKER:
And then in 2003, to give more teeth to this -- this goes to what you were saying about municipalities, it created phosphorous limits for municipal discharges. And that 2003 agreement also that I've read through, also states that Oklahoma will reevaluate the .037 criteria for total phosphorous in Oklahoma's rivers by 2012.

And then, this is a big part in accordance with the -- with the instruction, the mandates of the Supreme Court, the EPA gave its approval to Oklahoma's .037 phosphorous standard. This was critical because under the Supreme Court decision, now Oklahoma had to -- had a water quality standard approved by the EPA that was now enforceable against up states like Arkansas.

Now, let's fast forward to April 2012. Oklahoma's Water Resources Board reviewed the best scientific information available in 2012. It reevaluated and reaffirmed the .037 phosphorous standard. Mr. Chair, I want to put in an executive summary of that review.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

BOOKER:
And then on June 30, 2012, the ten year phase in going back to the Supreme Court decision, the actions by Oklahoma, the ten year phase in period was completed in full compliance with the .037 became required. It became now what was required by -- by the states.

So just to recap all of this because it's a lot, 20 years, Oklahoma's EPA approved a .037 phosphorous standard, more than two decades in the making. It has just been reaffirmed by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and then the ten year compliance period phase in had expired.

And so when you said that you had entered into a second agreement with Arkansas that in your words, "Was a historic agreement to clean up the river, that would reduce pollution from poultry growers."

And this is the question that I have sincerely, I pulled that 2000 agreement and read it -- excuse me -- the 2013 agreement and read it and it was stunning to see that it actually didn't take any steps to reduce pollution but actually only proposes another unnecessary study and attempts to suspend compliance that was two decades in the making with the .037 standard.

It suspended compliance for yet another three years of pollution. Isn't that true that, that's what the agreement did?

PRUITT:
It isn't, Senator. There was actually no enforcement of the .037 standard taking place on Arkansas's side of the border. The reason -- you refer to the memorandum of understanding. I actually have a second statement of principles here before me, as well.

That expired in 2012, '13 time frame and that's what presented my office with the opportunity to go to Arkansas to ensure that the .037 standard would actually be enforced from a state law perspective on that side of the border.

That had never taken place in history. You mentioned the EPA. There was no enforcement authority that had taken place on that phosphorous level by the EPA. Oklahoma had it as you -- as you've indicated as a standard but it was not being enforced upstream in Arkansas and that's what the agreement addresses.

BOOKER:
Mr. Pruitt, so I don't have the seniority or the stature or the grandchildren of Senator Inhofe, so I can't go over my time. But I will say this, in my next round, I will go back into this because the documents don't seem consistent at all with what you saying and I'd like in my next round of questioning to go into a little bit deeper into this historic settlement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:
Thank you Senator Booker. I would introduce for the record an article that appeared in the Tulsa World, this past January 12, 2017, going way beyond the 20 years of that panel, but of the slide.

But 33 years, and it's by Ed Fite, who served as the agency administrator of the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission from September 1983 until June 2016, 33 years. And his statement in this op-ed that he wrote is "I have found that Pruitt has always done right by our scenic rivers.

He has, for the first time ever, he has gotten the state of Arkansas, which happens to have parts of the streams we've designated as scenic rivers, originating in and flowing through their state to agree to Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers Phosphorous Standard, an incredible environmental accomplishment, the effect of which cannot be understated." Senator Rounds?

ROUNDS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Attorney General Pruitt, in August of 2016, the EPA Inspector General found that the EPA had failed to follow through with its commitment to update its 2010 Lifecycle Analysis for corn ethanol and has also failed to perform its legally required comprehensive study on the environmental effects of the RFS, the Renewable Fuel Standard. EPA's information on ethanol's life cycle emissions is inaccurate and it's outdated.

Today's best available science shows that blending ethanol into gasoline can significantly reduce greenhouse gases. However, the EPA has failed to update its own science with most recent best science that is available and continues to rely on outdated, inaccurate science when setting national policy regulatory biofuel's policy.

What are your thoughts on the EPA relying on outdated, inaccurate science to set federal regulatory policy?

PRUITT:
Senator, I think it's the obligation of the EPA in taking steps, rulemaking and otherwise, to ensure that it has the most up-to-date, objective scientific data possible.

ROUNDS:
Let me follow up a little bit. The current EPA process for considering of the scientific information underpinning major regulations, I believe, is flawed and it's unbalanced. For example, the Scientific Advisory Board, or the SAB is to provide scientific advice to the EPA administrator and Congress.

But there is a significant lack of geographic diversity in state and local and tribal representation on the SAB. Can you explain to us what your views are on the agency science and what you envision as the role of agency science at the EPA?

PRUITT:
Senator, as you and I talked about in our meeting, I think it's important to have that geographical representation better represented, and -- and that there's some conflicts of interest application with the Science Advisory Board that need to be addressed, as well.

And also, it's the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee, which is a standing committee of the Science Advisory Board.

ROUNDS:

I've got a chart that shows the geographic makeup of the 2015 chartered SAB. Of the 54 members, the majority of them come from East or West Coast states. Can you get that chart for me, please? I've also got a chart that shows the number of states that have government representatives on the SAB.

How would you broaden the geographic scope of SAB members to make certain that states and various governmental entities are represented? The one on the left shows the black diversity with regard to the actual members on the board, and the one on the right actually shows that we have a grand total of two states with representation for state and local units of government on those boards

PRUITT:
Senator, if confirmed, it is an issue, as I've indicated, and we talked about in your office, that is important to address to ensure that there's confidence that, as science is driving rulemaking that its objective and that it's tethered to the rules that are adopted by the EPA.

So this is a very important issue that needs to be evaluated and discussed and to ensure the efficacy of the science that occurs at the EPA.

ROUNDS:
Would you commit to us that you would make it an effort to see that the Science Advisory Board actually reflects some fairness with regard to geographic diversity, as well as recognizing the important role that local and regional governments, state and local governments have in determining or at least participating in these boards and commissions?

PRUITT:
If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on that issue.

ROUNDS:
Thank you. Let me just finish real quickly with just one other item, and I -- I believe listened a lot to and I -- whether you're working on behalf of industries, whether you're working on behalf of the folks from Oklahoma, your role as an administrator with regard to clean air, water and so forth.

As the attorney general, you represented the interest of your state, both your state's economy and your state's environment. But just because you are pro-economic development and pro-economic development growth does not mean that you have to be anti-environment.

Preserving the environment and preserving the economy, I don't believe are mutually exclusive. I don't think you've got to choose between the two. How would you balance economic growth with making certain that we have clean air and clean water?

PRUITT:
I think part of it's inherent in the statutes and the process that the EPA is supposed to conduct. I know that sometimes rulemaking is seen as something that's not terribly important or -- or something laborious.

But the reason rulemaking, the reason Congress has said that you take -- you offer notice on a proposed rule and you take comment, is it's needed to make sure all voices are heard and that there is an informed decision that regulators are making before they finalize rules, because of the impact it has on the economy and on the environment in this instance.

So, rulemaking is something that we should take seriously and that we should do so consistent with the framework outlined by Congress so that all those voices are heard that you're referring to, Senator, in -- in the rulemaking process.

ROUNDS:
Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much, Senator Rounds. Senator Markey?

MARKEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, earlier today you said that the EPA has an important role in regulating carbon dioxide because of the 2007 landmark Supreme Court ruling in Massachusetts v. EPA.

The EPA administrators for both President Bush and President Obama made a decision that carbon pollution poses a danger to America, otherwise known as the Endangerment Finding. Will you promise to keep on the books the scientific finding that carbon pollution poses a danger to the American public health and welfare?

PRUITT:
Two things, Senator. First, with respect to Mass. v. the EPA, the Supreme Court said to the EPA that they had to make a decision --

MARKEY:
That's right.

PRUITT:
... to determine whether CO2 posed a risk. And, as you indicated, in 2009 they did so. That is the law of the land, those two cases. There's an obligation of the EPA administrator to do his or her job in fulfilling Mass. v. EPA in that Endangerment Finding from 2009.

MARKEY:
So you will keep that scientific finding on the books?

PRUITT:
The Endangerment Finding is there and needs to be enforced and respected.

MARKEY:
OK. And you will not review that scientific finding?

PRUITT:
There's nothing that I know that would cause a review at this point.

MARKEY:

That's very good. Massachusetts v. EPA made it possible for states like California and Massachusetts to set higher standards for the fuel economy of vehicles using their authority under the Clean Air Act. This is a powerful tool for states to reduce emissions and address global warming.

As a direct result of the Clean Air Act authority combined with my 2007 Fuel Economy Law, the Obama Administration reached an historic agreement with the auto industry's support to increase fuel economy standards to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.

Those standards are projected to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by more than 2 million barrels a day, prevent 6 billion tons of carbon pollution, and save consumers more than $1.7 trillion at the gas pump because their cars will be so much more efficient.

Those standards are also unleashing a Tesla revolution, clean energy vehicles all across the country. Ten thousand people are going to be employed, for example, in Nevada, in this technology area.

You've said that you want states to play a larger role in environmental regulation. In your 2015 testimony before the House Science Committee, you wrote quote, "The EPA was never intended to be our nation's frontline environmental regulator. The states were to have regulatory primacy."

But earlier today, you wouldn't commit to maintaining California and Massachusetts and other state's ability to be regulatory (sic) primacy as the leaders of the effort to protect their own states to do what is best for global warming in their own states.

So I'm going to ask you again. Will you support the statutory right of states to do more to reduce dependence on foreign oil, reduce global warming pollution, save money at the gas pumps, and create tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of jobs in the clean car job business?

PRUITT:

I think, Senator, generally the answer to that would be yes. But, in application with the California waiver that was discussed earlier, that's an adjudicatory process that I can't prejudge what would occur there. As you know, previous administrators have either granted or denied that based upon a record that was made.

I do respect and do believe that states have a very important role. We've acknowledged that or I've acknowledged that today with respect to the Chesapeake Bay situation, as an example. And so, I will look at that issue like others, to make sure that it's respected but also is consistent with the statutory framework that you've outlined.

MARKEY:
Do you support the law that says that California has a right to ask for a waiver?

PRUITT:
It's statutory and something the administrator has an obligation to do. So, yes, I do respect it.

MARKEY:
Do you support the current California waiver for greenhouse gas standards?

PRUITT:
Senator, that's what would be evaluated and I think it's very difficult and we shouldn't prejudge the outcome in that regard if confirmed as administrator.

MARKEY:
So, you're questioning the current waiver? You don't think they're entitled to the current waiver.

PRUITT:
Well, the waiver is something that's granted on an annual basis and the administrator would be responsible for making that decision.

MARKEY:
Yep. And so, you say you're going to review it?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

MARKEY:
Yeah. And when you say review, I hear undo, you know, the rights of the states. And I think to a certain extent that's -- it's troublesome, because obviously what we've heard all day is how much you support state's rights when it comes to these issues.

But now when it comes to the right of California or Massachusetts and other states to be able to reduce carbon pollution, you're saying you're going to review that. So, my problem really goes to this double standard that is created that when you sue from the Oklahoma perspective, from the oil and gas industry perspective and you represent Oklahoma, you say they have a right to do what they want to do in the state of Oklahoma.

But when it comes to Massachusetts or it comes to California and it comes to the question of those states wanting to increase their protection for the environment, protect their -- their victimization from carbon pollution, you say there, you're going to review.

And I think that the history of the agency in granting reviews that have been necessary for Massachusetts, for California and other states to improve the environment, are still valid. The science hasn't changed.

The new clean energy technologies have not changed. The danger to the public from environmental exposure to carbon pollution has not changed. And so from our perspective, you know, we -- we are fearful of what a review would actually result in. And from my perspective, I think it's going to lead to you undoing that --

BARRASSO:
The Senator's time has expired.

MARKEY:
-- right of the states to be able to provide that protection.

BARRASSO:
Thank you, Senator Markey. I'm going to introduce, for the record, a report from the National Energy Assistant Directors Association. These are the state officials who oversee the financial assistance programs for people to heat their homes.

The report says that when energy prices go up, the higher energy prices result in 24 percent of the recipients who go without food for at least a day, 37 percent go without medical or dental care, 34 percent didn't fill a prescription and 19 percent had someone in their home become sick because the house was cold due to increased energy costs. Senator Ernst?

ERNST:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, Attorney General Pruitt, thank you for being here today. I would like to go back to something that a colleague, Senator Duckworth, mentioned earlier today and that's the Point of Obligation.

The proposal to change the Point of Obligation under the RFS is an example of a regulatory change that would destabilize the policy environment if adopted. And, what's interesting with the Point of Obligation, we have two sides that normally oppose each other that have actually come together.

So, both biofuel producers and the American Petroleum Institute oppose this change, both groups. And I would like to submit a letter for the record showing the united opposition to moving the Point of Obligation. Mr. Chair, if we could have that entered into the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

ERNST:
And, I'd like to revisit this, if you can, yes or no, as administrator, will you

oppose changes to the Point of Obligation?

PRUITT:
Senator, as you and I indicated -- as I indicated in my meeting with you and I think in response to Senator Duckworth earlier, there's a comment period in process now at the EPA about the Point of Obligation. I think prejudging, you know, the outcome of that process at this point is unwise.

I can say to you as I said to you in the office, any steps that I would take as EPA administrator with respect to any issues as far as the RIN program, the monitoring of that program, Point of Obligation, all these various issues that we discuss, the job of the EPA administrator is to make sure that the statute is upheld and enforced and not undermined.

The vitality of the RFS program has been defined by Congress dating back to 2005. Any steps that the EPA administrator takes needs to be done in such a way to further the objectives of Congress in that statute, not undermine the objectives of Congress in that statute.

ERNST:
Well, I do appreciate you being objective and I'm sure that Senator Duckworth and I will look forward to continuing to educate you on those issues. So, thank you, very much.

I would like to show a chart of the state of Iowa and I would like to go back to some of Senator Cardin's comments about who should define what the expanded definition of Waters of the U.S. is.

So, this is a chart of the State of Iowa and, as you can see, with the expanded definition as provided by the EPA, 97 percent of the State of Iowa is now considered Waters of the U.S. So, if you were in an area like mine, Southwest Iowa here, right down here, I live in a Water of the U.S. Most of the state is covered by the Waters of the U.S.

And I bring that up because in a moment I'm going to show you another picture of the consequences of the EPA defining what a Water of the U.S. is. Last Congress, this committee examined the scope of the Federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction, EPA and the Corps of Engineers claim today, even without the new WOTUS rule.

The committee found that EPA and the Corps are already expanding their jurisdiction using the concepts that they codified in WOTUS, they are just doing it by a case-by-case basis. The jurisdictional claims that are already being made are very troubling.

For example, the Obama EPA told the public that they will not regulate puddles. They will not regulate puddles. However, we learned that the Corps is already regulating puddles by claiming that a puddle in a gravel parking lot is in quotes, "a degraded wetland, a degraded wetland", a degraded wetland.

The Obama EPA also told farmers not to worry about being regulated because ordinary farming activities have a statutory exemption. We learned that the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Justice have decided that plowing is not an ordinary farming activity. Explain that to my dear deceased grandfather and my father, who's activities in farming include plowing.

According to the Obama administration, any plowing that pushes soil into furrows is not an exempt farming activity because the tops of plowed furrows can dry out. According to a brief filed by the United States in quotes, "The furrow tops now serve as small mountain ranges."

Right there folks, "small mountain ranges." "These furrow tops now provide conditions that are not conducive to growth and development of wetland plant species. They are many uplands," end quote.

This is a picture of these small mountain ranges from the government's expert report. Mr. Pruitt, will you commit to me that if confirmed, EPA will work with the Corps and DOJ to make sure that federal agencies stop trying to regulate ordinary farming practices.

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

ERNST:
Thank you for that very concise answer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:

Thank you, Senator Ernst. Senator Duckworth?

DUCKWORTH:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, I just want to ...

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator.

DUCKWORTH:
I want to come back to this question again. And let me just tell you, I played second base, as well. This is, you know, this is a hanging curve ball. You can knock this out of a park with a yes, all right?

Will you commit, yes or no, to reversing the EPA's current interpretation that available infrastructure should limit the requirements to blend biofuels into our fuel supply given that it runs counter to congressional intent?

PRUITT:
I will not take any steps to undermine the objectives and the statute of the RFS as administrator, as EPA.

DUCKWORTH:
So, are you committing -- will you commit to opposing any attempts to move the Point of Obligation from the farmer, the soybean producers, the corn producers, and biofuel manufacturers, away from them and towards the blenders, because that would be counter to congressional intent?

PRUITT:
Senator, that is something as I've indicated. There is an open comment period on that very issue. And, if confirmed, I would be dealing with that issue and need to respond to the comments that have been made as part of the record.

It would be unwise to prejudge that outcome. I can say to you that any steps that I would take as administrator would be in furtherance of the RFS and not to undermine the RFS.

DUCKWORTH:
But the comment period has nothing to do with congressional intent. Earlier today, you said that you would abide by congressional intent. Now, the congressional intent is to keep that Point of Obligation with the soybean and corn producers and the biofuel manufacturers, not to move away from it regardless of what the open comment period says.

So, you're saying that you're willing -- that your answer is no, because you would be open to moving it away from the soybean and corn growers, the farmers, towards the blenders, if that's what the comment period -- if that is what comes out of the comment period? Is that what you're saying? And that would be against congressional intent, though.

PRUITT:
Senator, I think maybe we're -- with respect to congressional intent and the statute, the intent, as far as the Point of Obligation, is not addressed in the statute itself. That is a decision and the administrator has been involved in that process historically. It's been subject to much discussion. In fact, the EPA has dealt with this issue before.

What I'm saying to you is, it's the job of the administrator to enforce the program, to administer the program, to ensure that the intent of Congress as far as the RFS is upheld. I will do that.

To prejudge the outcome of that particular comment period is something that I can't do and shouldn't do at this point. I would need to respond to that only after being confirmed and going through the rest of the process.

DUCKWORTH:
So, you're saying that you would be open to moving the Point of Obligation away from the corn and soybean producers and ethanol manufacturers?

PRUITT:
I'm saying ...

DUCKWORTH:

If that is what the -- if that is what the open comment period says, if that's the result, then you would be open to moving it away from the farmers?

PRUITT:
No, I'm saying, Senator, that any actions taken as administrator that would jeopardize and endanger the RFS as intended by Congress, I would not take. That is different from prejudging an outcome in that particular matter.

DUCKWORTH:
But the intent of Congress is to keep the Point of Obligation with the producers.

PRUITT:
That's something I'm not aware of, Senator.

DUCKWORTH:
OK. Well, let's move on to -- I'm very concerned and we'll follow up with this in the future. Let's go to safe drinking water. I sit on oversight government -- I sat on Government Oversight committee in the House where, in a bipartisan manner, we explored what happened in Flint, Michigan.

And I was actually flabbergasted earlier today when, in response to my colleague, Senator Cardin, whether you believe there's any safe level of lead that children can consume. You responded by saying, and I quote, "Senator, that is not something I've reviewed or know about. I believe there's some concern but I have not looked into the scientific research on that."

You're about to become the EPA administrator. You're seeking to be the EPA administrator and you've not looked into the issue of lead in our drinking -- in our drinking water supply? I think that that is something, especially in the aftermath of Flint, is -- is a serious oversight on your part.

Have you even studied the Flint water crisis in preparing for this hearing? And do the names Mary Gade and Susan Hedman ring a bell to you?

PRUITT:
The situation in point as I indicated earlier, the EPA should've acted more expeditiously in responding to Flint and did not. There was indication at the regional level that there were concerns and there was not a response.

And I think that the EPA bears responsibility for what happened in Flint and would seek to, in the future, avoid those kind of situations by being more proactive through the regional administrators and the states and municipalities in ensuring the quality of our drinking water.

DUCKWORTH:
As EPA administrator, will you commit to appointing a permanent regional administrator to the Midwest region that will be based out of Chicago but they cover Michigan?

We have issues with lead in Galesburg, Illinois, for example. And will you give them the responsibility and the ability to act proactively so that they can step in when they see that the state is not doing its job in protecting the safe water drinking supply for its citizens?

PRUITT:
As you know, Senator, the EPA -- and the answer is yes. The EPA has emergency order authority to respond to situations like you described. And I think the EPA should step in, in those situations in a very meaningful way.

DUCKWORTH:
That's good news because they did not do it in the case of Flint. Thank you. I'm out of time, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much. I would like to introduce for the record an article from the Oklahoman by Rick Green.

And to read, it says, J.D. Strong, Director of the State Wildlife Conservation Department says of Attorney General Pruitt, quote "Attorney General Pruitt has been a really good partner and ally in making sure we have adequate protections in place for the quality and quantity of water, said Strong", who previously lead the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and was State Secretary of the Environment.

I have never seen him put us in a position where we had to compromise anything to protect the waters of Oklahoma." Senator Boozman?

BOOZMAN:
Thank, Mr. Chairman. And I want to go through -- again, obviously, Congressman in the district with the Arkansas, Oklahoma, Illinois river situation. I was elected in a special election in 2001 and inherited this. This has been going on for about ten years. In 2001, from that time on until recently we've probably worked on this, it seems like every week.

But what happened was, in 2003, the EPA came out and said that the standard was such that by 2013, the river needed to be -- have attainment of .037 standard of phosphorous. Arkansas worked very, very hard, changed out all of its treatment plants in that area. That's one of the fastest growing areas in the country.

Again, you know, the ratepayers pay for all that, hauled out chicken litter and all those kind of things, and made a dramatic improvement in the attainment. The problem was, though, Arkansas, and you mentioned again, my good friend, Senator Booker, and he is a good friend, mentioned a lot about Oklahoma, this and that. Arkansas never agreed to any of that.

So they were going forward but they felt like they could not obtain the .037 standard because the first national river is in Arkansas, the Buffalo River, and it was not at .037. And it's pristine. So, went with good faith.

In 2010 -- in 2005, I believe, the attorney general in Oklahoma sued -- sued Arkansas. That was -- and you can correct me if I'm wrong on some of these things -- but in 2010, that case was -- was, all of this stuff was put in place but the federal judges never ruled on it. So it was open.

We fast forward, 2013 is arriving. Arkansas does still not agree that the .037 standard is the appropriate one, so they were squaring off getting ready to sue each other again. And Attorney General Pruitt, Attorney General McDaniel, a Democrat in my state, got together and said, hey, you know, let's not waste a ton of money with lawyers.

Let's, you know, use science and things like this to figure this out. So they chose a neutral site, Baylor University, which has an excellent water department. They came in, did a study and then came back and said .037 is standard and right now the states are living with that.

So, it really was -- it was a tremendous effort, took a long time, and it was a very, very difficult situation. So, you know, I applaud you. I want to put in the record a letter from our former Attorney General McDaniel that again outlines this and was very, very complimentary of the Attorney General.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you. Let me just quote one of the final paragraphs, "Recent press accounts regarding these efforts unfairly mischaracterize the work that was done by General Pruitt and his team.

He was a staunch defender of sound science and good policy as appropriate tools to protect the environment of this state. I saw firsthand how General Pruitt was able to bridge political divides and manage multiple agency agendas to reach an outcome that was heralded by most credible observers as both positive and historic."

And I think, again, as somebody that was intimately involved in that, more involved than I wanted to be in things, that it really was a heroic effort by yourself and the people in Arkansas trying to resolve, you know, a difficult situation.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator.

BOOZMAN:
Thank you. That's really all I have, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much, Senator. Senator Sullivan?

SULLIVAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and General Pruitt. I wanted to focus on -- you know, I talked earlier, a number of us talked earlier about the frustrations that the American people have with the EPA. We talked about anger. Senator Ernst talked about fear. I believe it extends to a couple of reasons underlying that.

One is the agency currently feels that it's empowered to regulate literally every nook and cranny of American life. And related to that, they seem to have very little respect for the rule of law. So, let me touch on those.

Senator Ernst talked about the WOTUS rule and the -- literally, the EPA's claimed the ability to regulate puddles. As a state with -- pre-WOTUS by the way -- 65 percent of America's wetlands in Alaska, we have very significant concerns about this.

But I wanted to actually address an earlier comment by Senator Whitehouse, where he said that there's nothing in your record that shows that you have the background to help America's fishing industry.

Well, I couldn't disagree more with Senator Whitehouse, who's a friend and colleague. My state has a fishing industry, like Rhode Island's. It's a little bigger. Sixty percent of all the sea life, that's considerably bigger. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, would you please acknowledge that for the record.

(LAUGHTER)

BARRASSO:
With no objection.

SULLIVAN:

Almost 60 percent of all seafood harvested in the United States comes from the waters of Alaska and it's considered the best, most sustainable, best managed from an environmental standpoint, fishery in the world. And you know what the number one issue, the top issue of the fishermen of Alaska is? EPA overreach.

So let me give you a specific example. This is a regulation. It's 200 pages on America's fisherman, the ultimate small businessmen and women. This actually requires -- every fisherman in Alaska, commercial fisherman, requires a discharge permit to literally hose off the deck of a ship.

Think about that. If you're gutting a fish and fish guts or pieces of a fish fall on the deck of your ship and you hose it down, fish back into the water of the oceans, you need a permit, 200 pages. This is the kind of thing where the trust between Americans and the EPA has eroded so much because of these kind of issues.

If confirmed, will you work with me and others on this committee to make sure that these kind of regulations are balancing environmental needs with jobs that are so important? You've mentioned it as a cost. Will you work with us on that and would you care to comment on a regulation like this? Fish back into the ocean requiring a permit.

Congress, by the way, has extended this twice, meaning tried to -- the implementation of this. So there's bipartisan agreement that we need to do something about this overreach. Would you care to comment on this?

PRUITT:
Senator, I think it's exemplary of a lack of priority. I mean, we have many -- like I indicated earlier, 40 percent of our country is in non-attainment under the NAAQS program. We have over 1300 circle sites in this country that need attention to move those areas into remediation and restore those areas for environmental- related issues.

And so, I think in some respects what you cite there is just missed priorities, of trying to focus on something like that as opposed to focusing on these other areas that will really improve tangibly the environmental protections for our people across the country.

SULLIVAN:
Let me talk next about the rule of law, and I'm glad you emphasized it as a priority. I believe it's really one of the principle reasons why, again, there's such a lack of trust between the American people and the EPA. But, it's not just a Republican issue.

As a matter of fact, there's a number of examples where this is viewed as a bipartisan issue that we need to address. You may have seen with regard to the Clean Power Plan, Laurence Tribe, not known as a strong staunch Republican, Harvard Law professor, stated, "The EPA is attempting to exercise lawmaking that belongs to the Congress and judicial power that belongs to the federal courts.

EPA is attempting an unconstitutional trifecta, usurping the prerogatives of the states, Congress and the federal courts all at once with its Clean Power Plan." Then he stated, "Burning the constitution should not become part of our National Energy Policy."

You've been involved in some of these cases, the Clean Power Plan, the Waters of the U.S. In both of these cases, courts have stayed the EPA's rule. Why do you think that the courts have done that and do you think the rule of law, that has been ignored by the EPA, is something that you need to -- that you if -- if confirmed, that you will work on to regain the trust between the EPA and the American people.

PRUITT:
You know, as I indicated, Senator, earlier, I think at times, perhaps those in law and the courts, they look at rule of law as something that's academic and technical. But it's real, and it affects people in very real ways.

When you have agencies of any type that act inconsistent with the statutory authority given to them by Congress. It creates the kind of uncertainty that you're talking about. People don't know what's expected of them and paralysis happens.

And, so, rule of law is important to economic development. It's important to send messages of certainty. It's important so that people can plan and allocate resources. There are many laws that people look at and say, well, I don't really like that.

But, so long as they know it's expected of them, they can plan and allocate resources to comply. And I think that's what's important about rule of law.

SULLIVAN:
And as -- and as one of the lead litigators on the WOTUS rule and the Clean Power Plan and the fact that the Supreme Court and the Sixth Circuit had put stays on those rules, what do you think that indicates the Court's view is of those two rules issued by the EPA, at this moment?

PRUITT:
Well, it's unprecedented for the Supreme Court to have done what they did in the Clean Power Plan.

SULLIVAN:
Never happened in the history.

PRUITT:
Never happened in the history of jurisprudence before the U.S. Supreme Court. That says a lot.

SULLIVAN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very much. Senator Moran?

MORAN:
Mr. Chairman, I'd yield to somebody ahead of me if I can have -- if they'd yield back to me for the next question.

BARRASSO:

That would -- that would be fine. I have some time that I haven't gotten to yet, in this second round and we will go shortly to a third round. I wanted to talk a little about the Mercury Rule that the Supreme Court overturned. They overturned the EPA's Mercury Rule, finding that the EPA did not appropriately consider the costs of the rule.

Noting that by -- between the time that the rule was issued and the Supreme Court decision three years past, the EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy, was on a television show a couple of days before the Supreme Court made its ruling. And they said, "Well, what if the Supreme Court says you were wrong?"

And, essentially, she said, "Well, the majority of the power plants have already decided and invested in a path ..." -- because it's been three years -- "... to achieve compliance with the Mercury Air Toxic Standards.

In other words, she had already gotten her result even though what she had done was found by the courts to be illegal. So, I'd ask your thoughts on her statement and do you believe that her statement shows respect for the rule of law?

PRUITT:
Well, Senator, this is speculation to a certain degree and one of my favorite philosophers is Yogi Berra and he says that predictions are pretty tough, particularly about the future.

And so I don't want to be too speculative here, but when you look at the response of the Supreme Court and the Clean Power Plan, I think largely the reason they acted in an unprecedented way is because of what you just addressed, Mr. Chairman, that in response to the Michigan v. EPA case, there was some comments made that they had achieved the outcome, despite the fact that it acted inconsistent with the framework under the law.

So, I think rule of law is something, as I indicated to Senator Sullivan, is not something that we -- that's academic. I think it's meaningful. It inspires confidence in those that are regulated.

It gives them assurance that regulators are acting consistent with their authority and allows them to plan and allocate resources to meet the standards and meet the objectives that Congress and regulators establish.

BARRASSO:
Senator Moran?

MORAN:
Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. General, you can see by where I sit on the dais that I haven't been in the Senate a terribly long time, but one of my causes upon my arrival and discovery of how the Senate works is to try to work with my colleagues to reassert congressional authority.

And, in my view, there's a number of ways we can do that. One, Congress could quit passing huge pieces of legislation and delegating authorities to agencies and departments. Another one that we could pursue, and I hope we will this year, is an appropriations process, by which we have the opportunity to influence decisions made at the Environmental Protection Agency and every other agency and department.

And one of the things -- and we do that by developing a relationship with an agency head, knowing that -- and I guess part of that is that members of Congress need to become greater -- have greater levels of expertise on the subject matter of their jurisdiction.

One of the subcommittees I chair is in the Commerce Committee, and it has jurisdiction over the National Highway Safety -- Traffic Safety Administration. The Environmental Protection Agency, just last week, finalized its greenhouse gas standards for light duty cars and trucks for 2022 to '25.

Now, the law says that it's to coordinate that effort with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and that agency is still developing its own process to determine appropriate fuel standards.

I raise this as an example of where, once again, two agencies instructed by Congress to work together to find a solution or the right answer to an issue, ignored the law. I assume you would assure me or members of this committee that the Environmental Protection Agency, to the best of your ability, will obey the law.

But I also assume that you are willing to assure me that when directed by the law to cooperate with other agencies to have the input of an agency that our subcommittee has jurisdiction over, as a person in the Senate responsible for these issues, I go to the agency that I have the most influence over and they say, well, the EPA has already done its thing.

I assume we can bring those kind of practices to an end?

PRUITT:
Absolutely, Senator. I think that interagency discussion, that collaboration to ensure that there is meaningful discussion, review of action takes place. I want to speak generally to your delegation reference, because I do think that that is a very important issue that you raise.

I think a lot of times what has happened is that Congress has spoken in very general ways --, I'll not say vague but approaching vagueness, and giving carte blanche or substantial authority to agencies without providing the kind of framework that's necessary for them to make their decision. From a separation of powers issue, it think that's very important.

I think it's very important for Congress, Article 1, to exercise its authority to give the direction to these agencies how they should conduct their business. Senator Cardin in his comments and questions earlier about the waters of the United States rule, I think that is a problem presently, largely because the definition of waters of the United States in the statute is so big and so general, it creates uncertainty.

And so I think making sure that Congress performs its role and the executive branch performs its role in enforcing laws and we try to do less delegation and respect separate of powers is very, very important.

MORAN:
I appreciate your reassurance of how you would conduct, if confirmed, the agency. It also is a reflection upon the need for Congress to do its job better and perhaps, I guessed you'd have nothing to do with that.

But for me and my colleagues, we need to be much more precise and clear in legislation and much more likely to deal in smaller bit sized pieces so that the -- too often I think Congress is interested -- I don't want to be derogatory to any -- any of my colleagues.

But too often we look for the headline that we've solved a problem and yet we've -- we complain about what an agency's decisions are and we've given them so much authority, they have the ability to make, what I would consider, and some of us may consider a bad decision.

PRUITT:
And there are important steps that have been taken. We've mentioned TASKA this morning, where you had done just that during this past year. And so I think that, that's a very important item that you raise, Senator.

MORAN:
Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you very, Senator Moran. We'll now move to a third round of questions and Attorney General Pruitt, you've just mentioned TASKA. You sent a letter to this committee in April 2015 supporting the Frank Lautenberg's Chemical Safety Act.

In fact the timing of your letter was less than a month after the bill was introduced, and you were the first attorney general in the United States to support the bill. The bill ultimately received overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress.

It will be your job to implement the bipartisan reforms and ensure we have consistent regulation throughout the country. Would you discuss the plans that you might have to implement this legislation and will you commit to implementing the legislation in a timely matter?

PRUITT:
Senator and Mr. Chairman, yes, I think in response to obligations of the EPA, this body has put timelines before the EPA to carry out certain rulemaking, the Prioritization Rule, the Risk Evaluation Rule, fees that need to be established, all those are mid- term in 2017.

And I think the matter of the EPA administrator should -- making that a priority at the agency. I also think that in response to Senator Gillibrand earlier and others have raised this, too, there are certain (inaudible) that need to be addressed in evaluating that listing under TSCA or perhaps the Safe Drinking Water Act as well.

And so I think there's specific actions that need to be taken but also the rulemaking process and the deadlines being adhered to.

BARRASSO:
The -- you made reference to -- and I did in my opening statements, as well, to Flint and there was some give and take on Flint a little earlier. The other thing I brought up was the Gold King Mine spill in Colorado, an environmental disaster caused by the EPA.

Last Friday, the EPA announced that it has denied all claims for the $1.2 billion in lost income, loss of use of property and damages to the businesses and the property suffered by 73 tribes, by land owners, local businesses, local governments as a result of the spill.

The EPA's excuse was its legal interpretation of the Federal Tort Claims Act. According to the EPA, if a federal agency hurts someone through a discretionary action, then the Federal Tort Claims Act does not apply.

Now this doesn't even sound right to me. So if confirmed, will you commit that you'll review that decision and use whatever authority is available to you under the law to help the people that have been harmed by the EPAs negligence.

PRUITT:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Senator Carper?

CARPER:

Thanks very much. A question. Mr. Chairman, I know you did not use when you -- have you -- when you started this round of the question, you did not use like 2 minutes and 30 seconds of your time. And when you -- when you comment like you've just commented, are you drawing down on that 2 minutes and 20 seconds?

BARRASSO:
I think I just -- yes, that was -- that was -- I now in the third round of questioning. Yes, sir.

CARPER:
All right.

BARRASSO:
And then I would reflect the fact that looking back at EPA nomination hearing processes, when Gina McCarthy was nominated and came to this committee, Chairman Barbara Boxer, two rounds, first round five minutes, second round two minutes. We're now in the third round of five minutes.

So I think that the Chairman has tried to listen to our -- in for our discussions and with other members to make sure that all the Democrats and every member had a chance to ask as many questions...

CARDIN:
Thank you for that clarification.

BARRASSO:
... as they had.

CARDIN:
Thank you. I want to go back to something that was said by one of our colleagues with respect to EPA and actually visiting states and participating in meetings in those states, with respect to the combined power plan.

And I think it was said that it wasn't West Virginia, my native state, native state of my friend from West Virginia was, that was not visited. We've heard since then from Joe Goffman, who is the counsel to Janet McCain. Janet is the EPA assistant administrator for air, as you may know, that he said he personally participated in meetings.

On a Clean Power Plan in West Virginia also in Kentucky, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Wyoming, North Dakota, Colorado, Illinois, and I think Nebraska. I wrote a letter to Gina McCarthy on January 11.

You may recall, Mr. Pruitt, I wrote a letter to you, I think on December 28 and posed a series of questions to you and asked for your responses by January 9, and I have yet to receive those -- those responses. And I wrote a letter to her on January 11, to again to Gina McCarthy and to Assistant Secretary Darcy of the -- the Department of the Army.

And I -- I wrote because we're getting our hearing in -- on our office a whole list of -- of ascertains about the waters of the U.S. And I think this is maybe an instructive forum for all of us. Here's the things that we were hearing and all these people just calling in -- in Delaware and led us to ask these questions.

One of the questions was, are the EPA and the Corps currently implementing new Clean Water Rule? And the ascertain was that indeed that's been happening. So we ask, is that really the case. And two days later, two days later we received a response, "No, the agencies are not now implementing the new Clean Water Rule.

Implementation of the new rule was temporary stayed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. And September 2015, the agencies immediately directed their field offices to stop using the new rule and instead resume implementing regulations in interpreting the guidance prior to the new rule. That was one of the questions we asked.

We also asked, because we're hearing ascertains otherwise by the EPA and Corps currently pursing enforcement actions pursuant to the new Clean Water Rule. And we got on the same date, January 13 this response, they said, "No, the agencies are not pursuing any enforcement actions pursuant to the new Clean Water Rule, and will not enforce this rule unless and until the Sixth Circuit Court Appeals stays is lifted.

The next question we asked because we're hearing ascertains otherwise, does anything in the Clean Water Rule revoke or otherwise modify the Clean Water Act's statutory and regulatory exceptions for farming and ranching. Response, two days later, January 13, was, "No, the Clean Water Rule makes absolutely no changes to normal farming, ranching and forestry exemptions established under the Clean Water Act in implementing regulations.

So, question number four. Some have claimed that landowners will no longer be able to rely on the Clean Water Act statutory and regulatory exemptions for farming and ranching should the Clean Water Rule go into effect because while the statute and regulations remain unchanged, the agency has narrowed the -- those exemptions in practice through the actions in the field.

Is that true? And the answer is surprisingly, "The ascertain of the agencies have narrowed application of the statutory and regulatory exemptions for farming, ranching and forestry is untrue.

The agencies have taken no steps intended to reduce the scope of the exemptions and we have not observed changes by field offices in the way they interpret or implement these exceptions. In fact, the Corps has reemphasized publicly that these exemptions are self- implementing.

Farmers, ranchers and foresters are not required to get approval from the agency prior to using the exemptions." I raise this because sometimes what people assert to be true, sometimes it's over the Internet, sometimes it's on television, sometimes it's in -- on the radio, newspapers. Ascertains are made and in this case there's a whole long list of ascertains that are made, none of them are true.

They are distortions, untrue is about what the EPA is doing with respect to a regulation that was stayed. And I would ask to, for the record, Mr. Chairman to be able to submit for the record the questions that we posed to EPA on January 11 and also the responses that we have received.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

CARPER:

Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator Inhofe?

CARPER:
I'm not through.

BARRASSO:
Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you and go right ahead.

CARPER:
I was thanking you for entering it for record.

BARRASSO:
You have 20 -- let's go back for the 23 seconds remaining.

CARPER:
Oh, thanks. I'd like to look at a chart, if you don't mind. This is a report -- this is a report card. Can you raise it up? Yeah, thank you. This is a report card that lists 17 counties. How many counties do you have in Oklahoma?

PRUITT:
Seven --

CARPER:
Seventy-seven.

(LAUGHTER)

PRUITT:
Mr. Chairman, can I refer to Senator Inhofe on these questions?

BARRASSO:

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CARPER:
I was watching -- his lips are apparently moving when you speak, so.

(UNKNOWN)
It's right here.

CARPER:
All right, thank you. At the same time you've been suing EPA on its ozone standards, all the counties in Oklahoma, for its data is collecting earned an F from the American Lung Association for not meeting ozone health standard.

You have 60 counties that they will have, the American Lung Association doesn't have data on progress made or not made with respect to ozone. These are the ones we have information on, 17 -- one, 17 counties from Madeira to Tulsa. You live in Tulsa, I suspect, you're in Tulsa county?

PRUITT:
Yes, sir.

CARPER:
Yeah, they all got Fs. They got Fs. This is last year, 2016. My question to you is, what did you do about it? What did you do about before or since?

PRUITT:
Senator, two things, one --

CARPER:
Sometimes people will believe what we say. They want to -- they may not believe what we say, but they'll believe what we do. What have you done about this?

PRUITT:
Yes, so Senator, two things. I really believe there needs to be a tremendous effort made by counties across this country to move non-attainment into attainment. Over 40 percent of the country -- or presently, 40 percent of the country approximately is in non-attainment and there needs to be great prioritization with the EPA and local officials in achieving attainment. Secondly, the EPA ...

CARPER:
But that wasn't my question. My question, Mr. Pruitt, was, what did you do about that. You've got 17 counties in which they have the data from last year. What did you do about it, before or since. That's what I'm asking you.

PRUITT:
As I've indicated, you know, as indicated in our meeting, individually, the primary enforcement responsibility in Oklahoma with respect to air quality permits and the rest is the Department of Environmental Quality.

And there have been actions taken by DEQ and they continually work with those counties to reach attainment. And we provide general counsel advise to that agency in the performance of their role.

CARPER:
I'm -- I'm not the attorney general of Delaware and I have no intention to be but if 17 of our states -- 17 of our counties in Delaware -- we only have three, but if 17 of them or if all three of them got F's, I probably -- I would do something about it. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator Inhofe?

INHOFE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congress recently passed a bipartisan bill, many of us up here supported it. I know I did. As part of the Water Infrastructure Bill to allow states to lead implementation and enforcement of EPA's coal ash rule through the state-based permit program.

That rule is already in effect and it's important that the EPA move quickly on this. If you are confirmed, are you get right on this thing?

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator Inhofe.

INHOFE:
All right. Sue and settle, we all know what that is. We know that the groups, maybe some of the environmentalist, extremist groups will file lawsuits and against the EPA. The EPA, instead of defending against the lawsuits will enter into a -- a resolution behind closed doors without any public input or participation.

These settlements result in new sets of legally binding priorities and duties for the EPA that achieve the demands of special interest. Can you share your thoughts on sue and settle?

PRUITT:
Senator, this issue came up earlier, and it's a concern because it's regulation through litigation and any time that you -- there's a place for consent decrees in our litigation system.

But to use a consent decree to bypass Congress, bypass the regulatory requirements being placed upon those agencies to engage in rulemaking though litigation is something I think should not occur.

INHOFE:
And that's the part that did not come up earlier, and I appreciate that very much. And then lastly, the cost of regulations. As you know, the Supreme Court overturned EPA's mercury and air toxicities that met the rule in 2015 because the EPA failed to ignore the fact that the cost was $9.6 billion annually of the rule.

Now in fact, the EPA's regularly issued rules over the past eight years that are very costly for our industries and our job creators. According to the CRS -- now the CRS, when they make an evaluation are much more conservative. They figure it's always a very conservative figure.

But they said, the Clean Power Plan, it would be at least $5 billion to $8 billion a year. The figures I've heard on that are far greater because it wouldn't be that much difference than the old systems that they tried to do through legislation.

The methane standards on oil and gas facilities, $350 million a year. The new ozone standards, $1.4 billion. The 2015 coal ash standards, $587 million a year. And the 2011 sulfur dioxide standards, $1.5 billion a year.

Now when you hear this, all this money's being spent for compliance costs by our job creators, people out there are working for a living and they're hiring people. What are thoughts and what do you believe should be role of the cost of EPA's decision making?

PRUITT:
I think it's very important in the rulemaking process, Senator. And the Supreme Court and courts have recognized that very important factor. I mentioned earlier the case that we were involved in Oklahoma involving the Regional Haze Program.

That was an example where Oklahoma actually complied and met and satisfied the requirements under the -- under the statute and the rule but their steps that were taken were displaced by the EPA, adding hundreds of millions of cost -- dollars of cost to consumers in the generation of electricity.

And so, cost are very important and we need to make sure that -- that they're considered in certain areas of the statute, as I indicated earlier, they can't be under Title 1, the Next program. But -- but -- but in that case, that you're referring to is an obligation of the EPA to actually engage in a cost benefit analysis and make a record before it made its decision.

INHOFE:
Do you think that the laws that are on the books right now adequately

handle this situation?

PRUITT:
I do think -- I do largely, Senator. I think it's mostly an application issue that the agency and the regulator doing its job under the statute as provided by Congress.

INHOFE:
Mm-hmm. Thank you very much.

BARRASSO:
Senator Whitehouse.

WHITEHOUSE:
And presumably Mr. Pruitt, it goes without saying that if the EPA's going to consider cost to the industry of conforming to pollution guidelines, it should also consider benefits to the public from cleaner air, cleaner water and the results of that compliance, right?

PRUITT:
It should. It should, Senator.

WHITEHOUSE:
So we have been talking about fund raising done by you for the Rule of Law Defense Fund during the time when you were both a board member and for a full year, the chairman of the rule of law defense fund and the fact that we have exactly zero information in this committee about that fund raising.

We also have zero -- and let me ask unanimous consent for the page from ...

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

WHITEHOUSE:

... your filing that discloses that he was in fact a member of the board of directors and chairman of the Rule of Law Defense Fund. We also have a meeting agenda from the Republican Attorney Generals Association during a time that you were an executive committee member of the Attorney Generals Association meeting at the Greenbrier, which I will stipulate for my friend from West Virginia, is a lovely place to go.

And the agenda which I'd like to take this page of and put into the record, mentions a private meeting with Murray Energy. It mentions a private meeting with Southern Company. It mentions a private meeting with the American Fuel Petrochemical Manufacturers.

If you'll show the graphic, these are all the same groups that I've been asking about in terms of your fund raising for the Rule of Law Defense Fund, and you know, there's Murray Energy, and there's Southern Company, and I'm sure the American Fuel Petrochemical Manufacturers represent a lot of the others.

As I understand it, we know nothing, no minutes, no statements, no reports about what took place in those meetings that are described as private meetings on a sheet that is stamped, confidential. Correct? We know nothing about the content of those meetings, so ...

PRUITT:
Senator, I didn't generate the document. I know nothing about the -- how that document got generated or what ...

WHITEHOUSE:
Are you denying that those private meetings took place?

PRUITT:
No, Senator. I just didn't generate the document. And don't know about the content of them, which you've represented.

WHITEHOUSE:
OK, and we don't know and because you were on the executive committee of RAGA, that's information that we could get. Right? I mean, it's available if there were minutes or reports out of those meetings, notes taken, but we don't have them. Correct?

PRUITT:
Senator, that would be a request made to the Republican Attorney General Association. I might add, the Republican Attorney General Association, there's a Democrat Attorney General Association, as well.

WHITEHOUSE:
I'm -- I'm not faulting that...

PRUITT:
And they have the same kind of thing ...

WHITEHOUSE:
I'm talking about private meetings that ...

PRUITT:
So these meetings -- these meetings take place all of the time ...

WHITEHOUSE:
... at a time that you were on the executive committee with some of the really, really big polluters with whom you've been very closely politically associated.

PRUITT:
There's a -- there's a conference, I may Senator of Westerns Attorney General ...

WHITEHOUSE:
I know.

PRUITT:
... that goes by the National Association ...

WHITEHOUSE:
They talk about water. Drives that's what they ...

PRUITT:
And there are meetings that take place at each of those events, as well.

WHITEHOUSE:
The rest of the attorney generals avoid that, so we don't want to talk about water. Let's talk about FOIA. You've had a conversation with the Chairman about FOIA. As I understand it, there is a FOIA request to the Oklahoma Attorney General's office, to your office for emails between your office and Devan Energy and Koch Industries and Americans for Prosperity, the Koch front group and Murray Energy and the American Petroleum Institute.

And the information that I have is, is that, that opened records act request was filed more than 740 days ago, more than two years ago, that in response to it, your office has conceded that there are 3,000 responsive documents, 3,000 emails and other documents between your office and these companies.

And that in 740 days exactly zero of those documents have been produced. Is that acceptable turnaround on a FOIA request? And should we not be concerned that your office is not complying with the FOIA request that relates to specifically to so many of these companies that are going to be before you as EPA administrator if you're confirmed?

PRUITT:
Senator, we actually have -- I actually have a general counsel and an administrator in my office that are dedicated to performing or providing responses to open records request ...

WHITEHOUSE:
Not very dedicated. If it takes 740 days, and it's still zero.

PRUITT:
And -- I'm not -- I'm not involved in that process. That is handled independently by that administrator and that general counsel in responding. So I can't speak to the timeline and why it's taken that length of time.

But I can tell you that our office works -- we actually go across the state of Oklahoma through -- in training with officials locally in compliance with FOIA and open records law, so ...

(CROSSTALK)

WHITEHOUSE:
Well, maybe you ought to send your people to your own training because it doesn't seem to be sticking very well.

PRUITT:
I'm not sure what the -- the representation you made about the timeline, I'm not -- I don't know and that ...

WHITEHOUSE:
Given how many of these groups have important financial interests before the EPA, do you not think that 3,000 emails back and forth between you and your office and them are relevant to potential conflict of interest as an administrator and should be before us as we consider this?

PRUIT:
Again, I think the EPA of this counsel has laid a very clear process with respect to covered entities, as we described it earlier and on particular matters and specific cases, I will follow the advice of that EPA career person ethics to make sure that there are...

WHITEHOUSE:
You keep saying that and ...

BARRASSO:
The Senator's time has expired.

WHITEHOUSE:
Want me to finish my sentence?

BARRASSO:
Please do.

WHITEHOUSE:
The problem with that is that if you haven't disclosed any of this information, then the EP ethics counsel would have no idea to even look. They would have no idea what the risks are. You can't say, nobody can look at whether I did this, but by the way, they're going to look at it. It just doesn't add up. Sorry, about the -- going over my time.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. Thank you Senator. I would like to point out, we had a report card that was just brought up and I'd like to introduce for the record a letter to -- from each of the five members of Congress from the state of Oklahoma with their steadfast report for Scott Pruitt, in saying, "We are proud of his service to our state and are very confident that he will do a superb job serving our nation and our citizens in this new role."

Also as follow up for the first round of questions, there was some dispute about a lawsuit against Mahard Egg Farm and who it was filed by. I have here the complaint in the case and it was filed May 18, 2011. Can you read it?

It says, "And the state of Oklahoma, by and through Attorney General Scott Pruitt." So you are the one that filed the suit along with the attorney general of Texas against Mahard Egg Farm and this will be submitted for the record as well. Senator Capito?

CAPITO:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the Ranking Member mentioned that Mr. Joe Goffman had visited, I called to the attention in beseeching you that when you're successfully the administrator at the EPA that you will listen to everybody and come to states that are most directly affected.

He mentioned that the associated assistant administrator had made the long list that he had said. But I would like to point out clarification. The EPA announced on September 30, a day I'll remember because that's the birthday of my youngest child, and they announced where they were going for their listening sessions.

They went to Boston. They went to New York City. They went to Philadelphia. They went to Atlanta. They went to Denver. They went to Lenexa, Kansas, and I wish our Kansas Senator was here, which I've looked up as a part of the Kansas City metropolitan area. They went to San Francisco. They went to Washington D.C. They went to Dallas and they went to Seattle, they went to Chicago.

Why states in the last five years has lost 10,000 jobs, not wholly because of this but some of this has -- plays a large part. And so I'll go back to my original request that the people that are affected by this environmentally and health wise are just as -- are just as important as the people who stand to lose their jobs over this.

Who then are plunged into poverty. Who then have a hopelessness around and in their communities. Who then become addicted to drugs and other opioids? I mean, it's just a cascading issues. Their lives are just as important. So that's my -- that's my plea on that.

Now, last question from me.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman, could I ask unanimous consent request. If I -- sorry for interrupting. But the docket with respect to the outreach that the EPA did in conjunction with the Clean Power Plan, shows from October -- I think October 16, 2014, something like this ...

CAPITO:
I was there through the listening sessions.

CARPER:
The docket requires nearly 1,000 meetings, calls, presentations, conferences, consultations, 1,000 in other outreach with stakeholders. The docket shows this post-proposal interactions concluded more than 300 meetings with state and local stakeholders who had 30 discussions with products.

Four hundred and fifty meetings with industry stakeholders, 150 discussions with environmental -- environmental justice and scientific stakeholders, dozens of more discussions with conveners and this goes on and on and on.

The -- in total the agency received almost 4.3 million comments about all aspects of the propose rule, more than any rule in EPA history, and thousands of people participated in the agency's public hearings, Webinars, listening sessions and so forth, all across the country. The agency made many revisions in the final rule and in response to those comments. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator, then I'd ask that the -- once a questioner starts, they be allowed to continue because we could get into a lengthy discussion. The EPA was found guilty of covert propaganda for soliciting information through a number of environmental groups.

It was a -- continues to be a blot on the record of the EPA and a question of this -- the entire Administration and their approach toward abilities of the -- for the rule of law versus and EPA out of control. So, we're going to allow the questioner to continue. And I revert back to you, Senator Capito.

CAPITO:
Thank you, not to beat a dead horse, but to try, I'll say that the Assistant Administrator McKay, when she was telling me that the only one to go where places were comfortable, she looked at me and said, "Senator, we're going into Pittsburgh."

Gee, thanks a lot. In any event, which is not in West Virginia, I'll make that point, my question is, you've said a lot about states, and I agree. The states should have the primacy, it's in the law, and that's something that part of why you brought suit, and part of the reason you've been successful with other Attorney's General.

Let me ask you a question, let's say you have a state where you're the administrator of the EPA, and you deem that that state's Office of Environmental Quality or DEP, which is what it is in West Virginia, just doesn't measure up. They're not protecting their people's health. They're not enforcing the law.

They are, in your judgment, and folks that you're working with, are not up to the task, and are letting their people down. What avenues of correction would you have at the EPA, do you have, and what would you exercise in that kind of category? And what kind of judgments would have to be made for those things to occur?

PRUITT:
Senator, I really appreciate the question. Because, I think there are times where states are (inaudible). You know, that they don't perform the obligations that they have, let's say, under the Clean Air Act in adopting state implementation plan. Or as they adopt the state implementation plan, they don't take into consideration all the factors that Congress have put in the statute and the EPA requires.

In those instances, it's very appropriate for the EPA to use its authority, like a federal implementation plan, to take over that jurisdiction, and to insure that the safety and health of our citizen's is protected, and air quality is maintained and water quality is maintained. So, there is a time and place for that.

I think in many instance, however, the last several years, it's been the first response, as opposed to, you know, cooperation and a federal implementation plan is absolutely in order at times. BARRASSO: Senator Merkley. MERKLEY: Mr. Chairman, before you start my clock, I'd like to follow- up on Senator Inhofe's strategy here of submitting certain facts back for the record. And I'd ask unanimous consent to submit for the record, an article from the Union of Concerned Scientists related to the so-called Climate Gate. That the Senator referred to earlier.

And that notes that the manufactured controversy over emails stolen from the University has generated a lot of heat, but not light. Email content being quoted, does not indicate climate data research has been compromised.

Most importantly, nothing in the content of these stolen emails has any impact on our overall understanding of human activities driving dangerous levels of global warming. Media reports and contrary claims that they do are inaccurate. So I submit that --

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

MERKLEY:
-- for the record. Thank you. I'd also like --

BARRASSO:
This Chairman, since my name is involved, let me respond. Were you listening when I talked about the various publications that have come out, and talked about how fraudulent it was, these are publications, science publications, have gone in, made their own evaluations, and for the U.K. Telegraph to say it's the worst scientific scandal for our generation, then that's pretty extreme?

MERKLEY:
My colleague, we could have an entire day dedicated to the review of the scientific literature on this, and I -- it would weigh very heavily on the scales in the direction I've indicated, in support of the information presented by the Union of Concerned Scientists. We may just have to agree to disagree. That's why I submitted it for the record. We'll let the public decide.

(UNKNOWN)
That's why the statement is repeated over and over again about the science is settled, is not an accurate statement.

BARRASSO:
I'd invite the Senator to question the witness.

MERKLEY:
The beauty of the Senate, is we get to have our own opinions. Meanwhile, I'd also like to submit for the record in response to when I was speaking about asthma, Mr. Chairman, you noted a study from the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

And it's important to note that that organization has been funded by the American Petroleum Institute by a Koch Brothers front group, and by Exxon. And that there is a series of responses that invoke the opposite side of that and the NAACP, which certainly speaks for a broad swathe of African Americans, takes a very, very different stance, and it has endorsed the Clean --

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

MERKLEY:
Thank you. I'd also like to submit for the record, two articles -- or two statements from the National Congress of American Indians, and from Latino organizations -- a whole group of Latino Organizations, that are very concerned about this nomination.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

MERKLEY:
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And then I'd like to turn to a question that has puzzled me over time, and it's in the context of how one evaluates how one views the world.

And I heard one of my colleagues once present it this way, if you go to a doctor and they say you have cancer, you decided you better get a second opinion, and then you go to 100 doctors and 97 of them say you have cancer and you better act, most people feel like, hmmm, 97 doctors told me I should act.

Three told me I should go take some healthcare supplement. Maybe I better have the operation. And that's really the place where we are in climate science now, where the overwhelming weight of the scientific community weighs in and says, "Yes, it's very logical." You can do it in a laboratory, as Senator Whitehouse noted, that carbon dioxide traps heat.

You can do it in a laboratory that methane traps heat. You can track the change in the environment of the concentration of those gasses. You can see the impact on the ground now. My home state you have an impact on the oysters because the Pacific Ocean is 30 percent more acidic than it was before we started burning coal.

That is a scary thing when shellfish have trouble forming shells. It has an economic impact. Our pine beetles are thriving because the winter's not cold enough to kill them, and so it's having a huge impact on our forest. That's an economic impact on rural America. The southern part of my state has had three worst ever droughts in the last 15 years.

It is a huge impact on agriculture community. The streams in Oregon coming from the snow packs, have been declining in size and raising in temperature -- very bad for trout, very bad for salmon -- that's an impact on our fishing community.

So the global warming that is taking place and being driven by the burning of fossil fuels is having a huge economic impact on the citizens of my state. My rural citizens. My citizens who depend on timber, who depend on fishing, who depend on farming. Should the citizens seek to address this problem? Because we're just on the front end of this happening.

Ten years ago we were talking about models that led to the conversation Senator Inhofe had about Climate Gate, about pressing with assumptions and models, we don't need models now. We have facts on the ground. The moose are dying because the ticks aren't being killed by the winter being cold enough.

The fish are migrating on the Atlantic coast and Maine's losing its lobsters to Canada. These facts on the ground are extraordinarily real, they have a huge economic impact. And shouldn't we take a very serious approach to the urgency of this problem as we see it descending upon us?

PRUITT:
Senator, I think the EPA, and if confirmed as the Administrator, there's currently and obligation to deal with the issue. The Massachusetts VEPA case says that CO2 is a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, and as such, that's what generated the 2009 Endangerment Finding.

So, I think there is a legal obligation presently for the EPA Administrator to respond to the CO2 issue through proper regulations.

MERKLEY:
I believe you're acknowledging that, which I'm glad to hear, that it is a serious problem and that the EPA, that carbon dioxide is a pollutant, and we have a legal obligation to take it on.

PRUITT:
I think Massachusetts VEPA say that, counter-balanced by the UR decision that came out a few years later, that you can't transform a statute as the EPA sought to do with the PSD program. So, I think the court has spoken emphatically about this issue, and the EPA has a legal obligation to respond.

MERKLEY:
And as you kind of rank the urgency with which you bring to this, do you see it as something you wake up every day -- the next generation will weigh whether or not we acted promptly, or is it more, I have a legal obligation because of this court decision, so I'll have to have some folks pay some attention to it?

PRUITT:
I think the importance, Senator, it's very difficult to prioritize, you know, Senator Jill LeBryan's (ph) not here, but when she talked to me about (inaudible) and the threat that she's facing in New York, is that any less important than the CO2 issue?

It's not. And so, the EPA deals with very weighty issues, as you know, water and air quality, it's a matter of prioritizing the resources to achieve better outcomes in each, and I think it's very important to do so as an Administrator.

MERKLEY:

I do feel like perhaps you don't understand the gravity of the situation, from your response. Because there are feedback mechanisms that are starting to occur with the open blue water, and the Arctic feedback from methane bubbling up from the permafrost bubbling up from the peat bogs.

Bubbling up from what was previously frozen methane on the bottom of the ocean that has incredibly accelerating impact on global warming. Our rate of carbon dioxide pollution is not decreasing globally, it has doubled in rate from one part per million per year, to two parts per million per year.

So, we are on an accelerating curve as a human civilization. If human civilization doesn't get it together very quickly, we are in very deep trouble, and I would hope that at some point, perhaps the urgency of the situation would be something you'll grab a hold of. Thank you.

BARRASSO:
Senator Rounds?

ROUNDS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Attorney General Pruitt, last year at an oversight hearing, we heard reports of the EPA regional offices who were sending companies information collection requests, or ICRs. Pursuant to Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, regarding their operations with no explanation as to the reasons for the ICRs.

These ICRs, which companies are legally obligated to respond to can cost the companies millions of dollars to collect the information to respond to the requests. They often hear no follow-up from the EPA regarding whether their response was adequate, or what the information would be used for.

Last year I requested from the EPA, a record of the ICRs that had been sent to U.S. companies throughout the various regions. I was told by the EPA staff, that there was no way to get this information because they didn't have it.

Second, in 2015, I wrote a letter to the EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, requesting the economic information that forms the basis of the Clean Power Plan and the Ozone Nox Standards.

These are the major regulations that were being quickly imposed on American taxpayers. The response which I received took two-and-a-half months to get the response, but I'm -- understand that I'm one of the few recipients with an actually letter back from the EPA.

And I would ask that it be included as part of the record of the meeting today, Mr. Chairman, and the letter was basically nothing -- nothing short of referring me to an Internet link that directed me to Webpage, the same Webpage which generated the questions in the first place.

Essentially, they just simply suggested that I Google it. Not hardly a response that you would expect back from any federal agency, at least one that was trying to be responsive with regard to major proposed rules.

Working at a United States senator, I've found it nearly impossible to easily access the information that I'm looking for. I can't imagine the difficulty of a small business, a farmer or a rancher when they are seeking to get information from the Environmental Protection Agency.

As the EPA administrator, the role which you are seeking, do you believe that this is an adequate way to communicate with the public and elected officials, and what are you views on making agency communication and recordkeeping more transparent and accessible?

PRUITT:
Senator, this is actually a common theme, as I met with many of you on this committee, both Democrats and Republicans, it was expressed to me that a concern about the lack of response by the EPA at all in response to inquiries, let alone the time response.

And so I believe it's very important, as I indicated in my opening statement to listen, not only the voice of the American people, but listen to members of Congress, listen to members of this body with respect to the issues that are concern to them in their respective states.

And that's something I take very seriously and would seek to respond expeditiously to you and to others of this body with responses.

ROUNDS:

The Ranking Member had asked and was following up with the questions in terms of your role as the attorney general with regard to fracking issues in the Oklahoma, but also with regard to clean air attainment levels and so forth.

And it seemed to me that what you were trying to portray at the time, and I'd like you to expand on this because I think this is important, is it -- you have a different role as an attorney general than you would be if you were responsible as the agency within the state who had the direct and statutory authority to respond to those issues.

It seems to me that, that's one of the roles the EPA administrator has which would be different than that of an attorney general, which is the execution of the laws that we've passed. Could you expand a little bit? Because I think this is really important in terms of your -- the way you perceive your duties with regard to executing the laws that this Congress has passed.

PRUITT:
Yes, Senator, and I appreciate the question. The role of an administrator is to perform an executive role, an executive policy making role, and in carrying out the functions and the statutes that Congress has passed. That's much different than my current role as attorney general.

And as I tried to indicate to Senator Carper that in respect to enforcement actions in the state of Oklahoma, that's vested specifically in the Department of Environmental Quality. They're the ones that bring enforcement actions against companies who do not comply with air permits, et cetera.

We provide general counsel to them in that process but it is not our responsibility, but more, it's not our jurisdiction. And that's important to me because it goes back to rule of law, it goes back to process.

I think often times what we see in this country is that those kind of disregard the authority or jurisdiction that's been given to them by the statute of the constitution and they act anyway. That's what creates, I think a lack -- a lack of confidence in the American people. And so I've tried to respect those boundaries.

I've tried to respect my role as attorney general as attorney general, stay in my lane, if you will and provide the counsel and perform the job that we're supposed to perform to that agency, but then allow that agency to enforce, as required by law.

ROUNDS:
And then very quickly, that also means that with regard to determining the science behind the laws that we create, as the administrator, you're not going to make the determination yourself. You expect that sound science and that scientists with that background would be making the recommendations that you would then base a decision on?

PRUITT:
Yes, and we're objective and transparent in that process.

ROUNDS:
Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you Senator Rounds. Senator Booker?

BOOKER:
Mr. Chairman, if you would gracefully hold the clock for a second, because I want to respond very succinctly to something that Mr. -- Senator Boozman and you said. First of all to you, sir, I just want to say, it's my first time going through nomination hearings. You have been very generous with the way you've been conducting these hearings.

I think it's important that we know that, and I appreciate the number of rounds that you are doing. And then to Senator Boozman, I really do appreciate him adding to the line of inquiry on having you to me as a friend, which means a lot to me.

People around here, your colleagues know that you have a deep respect for the kind of kindness and -- and just decency that you represent to a level to which I aspire to but have not attained. So I thank you for that. Thank you for indulging me.

BARRASSO:
Thank you.

BOOKER:
And again, with -- with respect to my colleague who is a really good man, if this was between Delaware and New Jersey, I'm the up state, I would be very happy with the agreement that it seems that you -- that you did.

But you were the down state, and -- and so that's what I don't understand. Now, you said earlier in your testimony in regards to this matter that you have a copy of the 2003 agreement. Do you have that?

PRUITT:
I have the second agreement Senator, the one ...

BOOKER:
OK, well, let's just look at a 2000 agreement and I know you claimed in your testimony earlier that the 2003 agreement had an expiration on it.

PRUITT:
It was a ten year period that, that needed to be reevaluated. This is the second statement I have here, Senator. I don't have ...

BOOKER:
Yes, sir. I just want to clarify that it seems that it's a contradiction. There's no expiration on the 2003 agreement. It had a reevaluation, a period in which it would be reevaluated and it was reevaluated by your state with involvement of the EPA and the involvement of Arkansas and they came up with the same .037 standard.

And if you look at the provisions of what you do have in front of you, the 2013 agreement, and I have a blow up of Page 4 of that agreement, it states that, starting here, it states that, "Oklahoma, through the Water Resources Board will propose a rule amendment that removes the date

to achieve full compliance with the numeric phosphorous criterion set forth in Oklahoma administrative code." And then it lists these two codes.

And if you look at those two codes, what those two codes do -- you know what they are. They set the sections of phosphorous concentrations shall not exceed .037 by June 30. It's removing the June 30 deadline in these two statutes.

And so that -- that's what is frustrating to me is that this is what you're heralding as agreement, but you already had in your 2013 agreement, it's clear that you're doing to me, and I don't know of another way reading in the facts, is you take a binding rule of law and you suspend it for another three years allowing the more pollution to take place.

PRUITT:
Senator, that -- that is not -- the issue here was not whether Oklahoma could enforce it's .037 standard, it was whether Arkansas was going to adopt that standard on that side of the border. That had never take place in history. That was the concern of Oklahomans. That was the concern of Mr. Fite at the scenic Illinois River.

BOOKER:
And so I respect that. I'm going to stipulate to what you said. If you -- I'm running out of time, sir -- because I agree with you, whether Arkansas was going to be able to live up to that standard, but you're the Oklahoma attorney general, and this is what I want to say.

As soon as you did this so called, historic agreement that set it back, you basically turned to the EPA with the rule -- with the power of the law of the Supreme Court and say, OK, back off of my corporations. Why do I say that so confidently? Because I pull a letter from Tyson Foods that literally six days after your so called, historic agreement of suspending this rule for three years, they're delighted.

They write to the EPA and say, hey, you -- they have now already heard of the February 20th agreement by Arkansas and Oklahoma officials to jointly conduct an comprehensive study of concentrations and impacts in the Illinois River Shed. They're excited.

They literally say, compliance however, with the now .037 milligram has been suspended, so lay off us, EPA, under this agreement until the study process is completed. They say, "In conclusion, the by-state agreement has suspended implementation date of .037 during the term of the agreement."

Industry is really happy about this and believes, and of course this letter, unless you're saying Tyson's was wrong, they believe that what you did is give them the EPA with the power of the Supreme Court and the 20 years of work that predecessors of yours had done, the power to -- to -- to suspend that power of them to comply with the law.

And so that's really what I'm struggling with. On one hand you say that you filed lawsuits against 14 people against the EPA. It's this idea of federalism. Of Oklahoma sovereignty, Oklahoma state's rights, you're fiercely fighting for Oklahoma, and on the side of the polluters.

And you say, the EPA is attempting to do things but, then on the other hand in this case that you're talking about, you switch suddenly to say, "Well, Oklahoma's water quality standard for phosphorous that has been worked on for 25 years, armed with an EPA approval, armed with a Supreme Court decision on point saying that up river states are bound, industries believe that they're bound, but suddenly you're no longer fighting for Oklahoma.

You're fighting to protect industry and on the side of industry again.

PRUIT:
I can assure you, Senator, that industry didn't think they were bound. And I can ...

BOOKER:
Then why did Tyson's write the letter, sir?

PRUITT:
I don't -- I don't know. I don't know why they said that, because as Senator Boozman indicated earlier, the phosphorous level at .037 was unenforceable on the Arkansas side of the border and that's where the contribution was -- that was the concern. And until this agreement that we had here, was negotiated and signed by Arkansas.

That had never occurred in the history of Oklahoma.

BOOKER:
But sir, Arkansas was party to the 2012 scientific investigation. They're bound by a Supreme Court justice case, which I've pointed out to you already and I could read you the binding paragraphs, bought in by the EPA and obviously understood by industry that they were bound by that standard.

Your agreement didn't extend -- didn't -- didn't stop it. It extended the -- the -- the period in which people could pollute. I don't understand how that could be historic.

PRUITT:
Senator, I just -- I think as you look at what was achieved between Arkansas and Oklahoma, you have the Arkansas attorney general, Ed Fite, who was the old -- who had been involved in these issues, as indicated earlier since 1983, trying to enforce and obtain water quality to -- that improved the Illinois -- the Scenic Illinois River, he cited the historic results in this -- in this matter.

So I'm unaware of the letter that you're referring to, but I can assure you that industry was not, not at all excited about .037 being enforced on the Arkansas side of the border.

BOOKER:
And I'll conclude just by saying, sir, it's clear that industry was excited about the three-year delay that you bought them to continue to pollute. It's written there in a letter. And it seems to me the theme in your is not federalism and states' rights, but deregulation and siding with polluters against the environment and the public health standards.

And it's unfortunate to me that, that -- that -- unless you can show me something different in the way that this actually helped to clean up the river quicker, but I just don't see that at all in the evidence and the facts that I have before me.

BARRASSO:

Thank you very much Senator Booker. Our next questioner is actually Senator Boozman. Since we have Oklahoma and Arkansas both here, I don't know if you have a question Senator Boozman, or if you just want to make a comment about this agreement that -- since both of the states are here, I think you did represent the congressional district directly adjacent.

BOOZMAN:
No, I want to make a quick comment and then after that I think all of my questions have been answered and yield back if, you know, if we can have agreement. But, I think the thing, Senator Booker, to understand is, is that first of all the water was not being polluted at that point.

Arkansas had made tremendous improvement over the years and had just -- the discharge in Springdale, Fayetteville, Rogers, Bentonville, the major communities there, that have grown tremendously during that time frame, their discharges were down to, you know, very admirable levels. So all of that was being done. The question was, was .037 fair versus .04 or .05?

As I mentioned earlier, our most pristine river in Arkansas was not at .037. So we didn't feel like we could -- we could do that. So Arkansas -- Oklahoma was happy with all this stuff. Arkansas was not. And because of that in 2013, as the agreement ran out, they were prepared to sue -- or to go back to court again.

This thing had been litigated since the Supreme Court finding back in the '90s all along the line. But that's -- and to be honest, I'm not happy with the .037. I think it's too stringent. I would challenge, you know, to find a river in New Jersey that meets that standard, and you can't do it. It's a very, very stringent standard.

So it was -- it wasn't continuing to pollute and things like that. Tremendous progress made on the Arkansas side. Everyone agrees with that. It was where do you draw the limit. And so often with the EPA, this is so important. We've had on the committee, we've had the gentleman that represents the water district, you know, for this -- this huge area.

They spent $1 billion, you know, doing a great job of cleaning things up, raising everybody's rates. EPA has come back and wants them to spend another $1 billion for -- for a tiny fraction that everybody agrees would not have any impact on the water quality in the river. Those are the kind of things that you get into.

So, again, I'm not -- I'm really not happy at all about the .037. I think that Tyson's and the industry were happy in the sense that you would have a situation where you would have some finality, you would have some resolution so that everybody could go forward.

BARRASSO:
Senator Ernst, any final comments, or thoughts or questions?

ERNST:
I -- thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't have any further questions. Whatever additional questions I have, I will submit for the record. But I do have some closing comments. I do want to push back a little bit on the -- on the ranking member's comments earlier.

I had gone through a series of examples of overreach by the government with the expanded definition of waters of the U.S., and the ranking member had stated that he had a letter that he'd received from the Administrator Gina McCarthy.

And I have no doubt that she was answering those questions honestly, because she wasn't the one making the statements. The statements that I presented came from the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Justice. Now I know this to be true. These are not as implied from some obscure Website off the Internet done by some blogger in a basement somewhere.

The comments actually came from this committee, case studies from this committee September 2016. These are examples of case studies from all across the United States, and I will cite just one that I -- I opened up to.

"A land owner in California received an investigation letter from the Corps informing him that disking performed by a tenant farmer on his land may have resulted in an unauthorized discharge into WOTUS." And that regulators had opened a case against the land owner. They are being implemented case by case.

This letter came as a surprise to the land owner who had been disking this particular site periodically over the past 15 years to sustain grazing conditions for his cattle, a practice he believed was normal until he received this notice.

The Corps told the land owner's consultant that all disking for any purpose and at any depth with any potential WOTUS is a discharge into WOTUS and in the absence of a permit represents an unauthorized discharge in violation of the Clean Water Act. This is an actual letter from the Corps that was submitted to this committee, the EPW committee last year.

So this is not made up. This is a very real impact to all Americans. And so I appreciate your stance, Attorney General Pruitt that if you are confirmed, you will work with those that wish to continue farming normal practices. But this is not made up folks. And we just need everyone to understand that the Corps, the DOJ and the EPA have gone beyond what we consider to be reasonable application of the law. Thank you very much.

(UNKNOWN)
Mr. Chairman, if I could just respond very briefly. The letter that I sent on January 11, was not just to the EPA. It was the head of the EPA and also, that of the assistant secretary of the Army, the Department of the Army, who's in charge of the Army Corps of Engineers. So it was really to both, both EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

I gave them a 1/2 dozen or more questions, and said, this is -- these are the assertions that we're hearing. What is the truth? And they responded jointly. So, I would just leave it.

ERNST:

And if -- if I can respond to that. I -- I apologize because I was going to use Senator Rounds letter as a prop. I had not seen a letter from the EPA. I had written Administrator Gina McCarthy nearly two years ago on some issues that I was wanting addressed for Iowa.

And I invited her to come to Iowa and visit. She never ever responded to me or my staff. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

BARRASSO:
Senator Markey?

MARKEY:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pruitt, you have criticized the Obama Administration on a number of occasions for allegedly quote "colluding with environmental groups to engage in sue and settle tactics." You just reiterated your concern to Senator Inhofe.

But in December, many of your co-plaintiff attorneys general who are suing the EPA over the Clean Power Plan sent a letter to President-elect Trump urging him to settle their lawsuits related to the Clean Power Plan. That sure sounds like an invitation to engage in sue and settle to me.

To avoid the appearance of entering into sweetheart settlements on the Clean Power Plan in cases, will you commit to recusing yourself from all ongoing litigation that you are involved in?

PRUITT:
Senator, I would say to you that the sue and settle practice, whether by this administration or future administrations is a practice that should not be followed. I believe that regulations through litigation is wrong.

I believe that the rule making process that Congress has established should be respected by agencies, not only the EPA but across the board. I would mentioned one case to you. That case is ...

MARKEY:

But this is what the -- it looks like that's what the attorneys general are doing who are suing and you're a co-plaintiff in this case on the Clean Power Plan. Will you recuse your -- will you recuse yourself from any role in the settling of these cases, in the negotiation on the settling of these cases?

PRUITT:
The sue and settle practice should not be used by any administration to regulate. We've experienced in Oklahoma a case involving the Fish and Wildlife and Endangered Species Act and the relisting of lesser prairie chicken that impacted our state. So sue and settle is wrong.

MARKEY:
So that is again ...

PRUITT:
That sue and settle is wrong.

MARKEY:
Are you giving me a yes, that you will not settle with these attorneys general?

PRUITT:
I will not engage in a sue and settle practice if confirmed as the EPA Administrator.

MARKEY:
OK, but ...

PRUITT:
Any time.

MARKEY:
So, will you negotiate with them to -- to reach a settlement, such as that has been recommended by the -- by the attorneys general who are the plaintiffs in this case against the Clean Power Plan?

PRUITT:
Senator, it is a belief of mine that the use of sue and settle is a practice that ...

MARKEY:
Right.

PRUITT:
... should not be done by ...

MARKEY:
I hear you.

PRUITT:
... any agency of the U.S. government.

MARKEY:
So you'll -- will you recuse yourself from any involvement in this litigation as it is being decided?

PRUITT:
As I've indicated to you Senator, the EPA at this counsel, career staff at the EPA has said that a particular matter in specific case, that those -- those will be evaluated at the time. I'll seek their counsel and comply with their counsel.

MARKEY:
Honestly, Mr. Pruitt, there is no bigger case than the Clean Power Plan. It goes to the promise that the United States is making to the world that we are going to reduce significantly our greenhouse gases. So this just goes to you, as an individual saying that since you brought the case with these other attorneys general that you will now recuse yourself.

PRUITT:
I would that ...

MARKEY:
Since you are in fact the plaintiff and defendant in this case, if you are confirmed as the EPA administrator.

PRUITT:
Senator, as I indicated to you earlier, and I'm sorry to interrupt you, but as I indicated to you earlier, I will recuse if directed by the EPA at this counsel, the career staff at EPA ethics. You know these individuals. They are -- they are -- they've been there and they -- I will follow their counsel and guidance.

MARKEY:
Well all right. I know I'm not going to get you to recuse yourself from any of these cases but I'm just telling you, it's going to wind up being a huge conflict of interest if theses attorneys general get to settle on their terms with the Trump administration, and you're sitting there in the middle of the room as that occurs.

Now let me -- let me go to another subject and that is this bottle of Trump water. Trump water, natural spring water, on the label it says, quote "Pure, fresh and free from contaminants. This is water the way it was meant to be." Trump hotel guests have the luxury of drinking this water, if they don't trust what comes out of the tap.

Low income communities across our country do not have the same luxury. Do you agree that the EPA plays a critical role in ensuring that all Americans regardless of racial, ethnic or economic backgrounds have a right to clean water, free from contaminants?

PRUITT:
Absolutely, in fact, Senator Booker and I already talked about environmental justice in our meeting.

MARKEY:

And that is great. As the wide spread lead contamination in Flint, Michigan water supply tragically reminds us, low income and minority communities often bear far greater environmental burdens. Yet you told Senator Cardin earlier today that you didn't know if there is any safe level of lead.

But scientific experts, including the CDC and World Health Organization have concluded that there is no safe level of lead exposure. Will you commit to making environmental justice for poor and minority communities an immediate priority of the EPA, if you are confirmed as administrator?

PRUITT:
I believe it's a very important role of the EPA administrator.

MARKEY:
Well, minority communities often don't have the monies ...

BARRASSO:
The Senator's time has expired in the third round.

MARKEY:
OK, thank you Mr. Chairman.

BARRASSO:
Thank you. The -- and now Senator Sullivan.

SULLIVAN:
Senator (sic) Pruitt, I just had one final question. We talked about some of the challenges that we have. You know, this committee's been working on the infrastructure issues. There's a lot of discussions over last year about Flint, Michigan and aging infrastructure, which I think is a concern at the state and local and federal levels.

There's also a challenge in certain parts of the country on no infrastructure, none, on clean water and sewer. And my state has over 30 communities that don't have any clean water and sewer in terms of the diseases and the living conditions in communities like that as you can imagine, it can be very difficult.

So in a bipartisan way this committee acted last year, established a new program for disadvantaged communities, small communities to work on those kind of issues for different communities, whether in Alaska or other part of the country that literally live in third-world conditions in some communities.

So that would be administered by the EPA, this new program. And I just want to get your commitment to work with us to fully fund that new program to work on those kind of issues.

PRUITT:
As we talked about in our meeting, Senator, I believe sometimes when infrastructure is referenced, we think roads and bridges and we don't think water infrastructure.

SULLIVAN:
Yeah.

PRUITT:
And I think all those are important. And I would make that a priority interfacing with Congress if confirmed as EPA administrator.

SULLIVAN:
Great, thank you. Thanks.

BARRASSO:
Thank you Senator Sullivan. I want to thank all the members for the respectful way in which the business was conducted today. Members may also submit follow up written questions, but it seems that everyone had plenty of opportunity to ask oral questions. Scheduled for the close -- the recording for the close of business, Thursday, January 19. Senator Carper?

CARPER:
I thought we were going to do one more round.

BARRASSO:
I thought three rounds was the longest in the history of this. The last -- the only other time there were three rounds was Christy Todd Whitman in 2001. And those were three rounds of five minutes each and the reason that she, as a Republican nominee was given three rounds is that the chairman of the committee was Harry Reid.

So the three rounds. The witness has been here since 10:00. It is now 4:30, so he's been six-and-a-half hours, and I think three rounds by any criteria that one would use each of five minutes, when -- when Gina McCarthy was nominated and I had significant numbers of questions, Barbara Boxer limited me to five minute round, one five minute round and one two minute round.

We have more than doubled today that amount of time for questioning.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman?

BARRASSO:
Senator?

CARPER:
I'm certainly not saying that you've been unfair with us, but until this very minute, I don't think it has been clear to anyone that there was a three round limit, and I believe you opened the hearing by saying that we'd go on until people's questions were answered.

So this is a bit of a novelty, but again please don't take it as a criticism of your fairness. I think that you have been fair. This is just news and I do have a bunch of questions right here that I'd hoped to ask as -- as what I expected to be a final fourth round.

BARRASSO:
Well, then I would already invite you to please submit those follow up

written questions by tomorrow at close of business.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could I be recognized? Yeah, I ...

BARRASSO:
Senator Carper and then Senator Booker.

CARPER:
I appreciate the way you've conducted this -- this hearing today. Appreciate all the members coming again -- coming back again and again. When -- when we were talking a week or two ago about where to have the hearing, whether to have one day of hearings or two days of hearings, we were interested -- our side was interested in having two days of hearings.

We were interested in having an outside panel and it was explained to us that the -- that's not really the tradition of the committee to have an outside panel. But -- and you said, I'd prefer to do it in one day and we'll stay as long as people have questions. I think that was almost exactly your words. And that's hard to argue with.

We can stay as long as people have questions. Some of the folks have some more questions. I know I do. And we're not running out the clock. They're honest questions. And I would just ask that you think back on our earlier conversation and you see your way clear to have one more round and we'll call it a day.

BARRASSO:
Yeah, well, I would say a couple of things. One, is I offered to start the committee meeting earlier today because there are many of us who have commitments into the evening. People from our home states who are here for the inauguration activities. We have commitments for our home states. And the idea of starting at 9:00 was rejected.

The -- wanted to go along, I think right before the third round, I said, now, if there's going to be an ongoing, maybe we should take a break, give the witness an opportunity to take a break. You said, no, let's plow on. The witness has been sitting there now for just about three hours.

And depending on the wishes of the committee, my preference is to say we have done more than ever done in the last 16 years or 17 years for nominees. I mean if people have one or two questions, I would want to give the witness an opportunity to stretch his legs. I'll be happy to stay and we can come back with a three minute round.

But I just don't -- I think there -- people have obligations and commitments and we thought we would be completed by now, and it does seem that many of the end, you know, not as -- and for people that are here now, they could go a -- you know.

So we have two members, three members, if you want to go two to three minutes, or one or two questions, I think we would be able to accommodate but to bring back the entire committee and go into the night --

CARPER:
No, I'm not -- I'm not suggesting we bring back the entire -- I'm going to just suggest that, if we can, maybe we can agree here. Those that are here today, right this moment, if they have question, give them five minutes. And then when they're done, then we're done, we're done. Yeah.

BARRASSO:
Any objection from our side? Any with these other ...

CARPER:
You have to go with ...

BARRASSO:
Senator Inhofe?

INHOFE:
Although we would be able to yield back any time that ...

BARRASSO:
Sure.

INHOFE:
... we have if we didn't want to use it.

CARPER:
Or you could yield to us.

INHOFE:
OK, I can only say that ...

(Laughter)

INHOFE:
I can only say that I've chaired this committee for quite a number of years. I've been through this once before and there is always an effort by those who are perhaps not really satisfied as some of the others might be to try to make it continue on and on and on. I would prefer to go -- go ahead.

I think we've all had adequate time and -- and be prepared to vote.

BARRASSO:
Well, we don't have a vote scheduled for today on this. We don't have an agreement on that. So there wouldn't be -- wouldn't be a vote. I would -- I would say if -- if the -- if the ...

INHOFE:
Well, if that's the case then we can confine it to, for the record.

(UNKNOWN)
(Inaudible).

BARRASSO:
Any other suggestions from the ...

SULLIVAN:

Mr. Chairman, I think you've been exceedingly fair, particularly relative to the confirmation of Gina McCarthy and I think it's purely within your call to have the additional questions be submitted for the record. Still the opportunity for the witness to answer the questions.

He'll still have to do it before his confirmation, but relative to any other EPA administrator hearing, you've been very generous, very fair and I think that from that perspective ...

CARPER:
Could I -- could I just ...

SULLIVAN:
... I think that, that's a very fair outcome, to still ask the questions. Just submit the questions for the record.

CARPER:
Yeah, could I respond to our colleague from Alaska? I don't know if you remember, a year or two ago, there was a joint session of the House and Senate committees and other (sic) committees, and the witness was Gina McCarthy and I arrived four hours into the hearing and after a while I was recognized to -- to ask a question.

And my question of Gina McCarthy was, "You've been here for four hours, haven't you?" She said, "Yes." And I said, "Is there question you haven't been asked that you wish you had been asked?" And she said, "Yes." I said, "What is it?" She said, "I wish I'd been asked if I needed a bathroom break."

I don't -- I don't know if the witness needs a bathroom break, but if you need one for a couple minutes, we can arrange that. And I can say, here's what we're asking for. Five minutes, Cory Booker, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tom Carper. We ask him a question and we're done. That's it. Can you handle that?

BARRASSO:
I asked before ...

CARPER:
Why don't you say, yes? We're wasting a lot of time here, otherwise we'll just ...

BARRASSO:
How about the ...

CARPER:
... keep talking around it.

BARRASSO:
As you said, you have a couple of questions, you have a couple -- let's go three minutes each and then we'll call it good.

CARPER:
All right.

BARRASSO:
You're -- you're up.

BOOKER:
Mr. Chairman?

BARRASSO:
Senator Booker?

BOOKER:
I'd asked to be recognized earlier. I do want to ...

BARRASSO:
Yes, oh, I'm -- I apologize. Yes, sir?

BOOKER:

No, I just want to repeat, I do think what Senator Sullivan said, you have been very, very generous. It's true. I appreciate what seems like an accord right now of a few minutes each, I'd appreciate that.

One thing you didn't mark, which I think should be really important is I have no sympathy for the nominee and his endurance. I do have for his family behind him who has sat through all this, and I just want to mark for the record that they are true champs and I think that's important to know. And I thank them for their indulgence, not the nominee, but ...

BARRASSO:
Well, I would just say ...

BOOKER:
... I think that's more evidence that he cares for the children of Oklahoma.

(Laughter)

BARRASSO:
I would just say, many people -- more people vote for me because of my wife than vote for me, and I would suggest for you as well, in the case of this nominee. So ...

BOOKER:
Let me yield to Senator Whitehouse.

BARRASSO:
OK.

WHITEHOUSE:
I just wanted to touch on two things and then we'll wrap up. The first is that on your questionnaire, you listed an email address with a me.com domain, as your business email.

You also have an oag.ok.gov address. Are there other email address that you have and are there other email addresses that you use for business, other than your me.com and your oag.ok.gov email addresses?

PRUITT:
The -- I'm sorry, Senator. The -- the me address is not a business email address. It's a -- it's a -- and I'm not sure why it was designated as such. I'm on my first visit ...

WHITEHOUSE:
OK, maybe we can prescribe the filing on that...

PRUITT:
Yeah, but there are no ...

WHITEHOUSE:
... so there's no other ...

PRUITT:
... there are no other email addresses, if that's your question, Senator.

WHITEHOUSE:
We have gone through the cases that you list as your environmental cases and when we take out the cases that were started by your predecessor, Drew Edmondson, and when you take out the cases that are fish kill cases, which as I understand is a form you lake matter (ph) that is resolved by letter at the staff level, you count the fish, you pay the fee.

And when you take out the qui tam cases, which are a, for those who aren't lawyers, a private individual who brings an action and then attorney general can step in and take the action over if they want, but it's brought in the first instance by a private individual. And then if you take out the cases in which you sued EPA, there is virtually nothing left.

And in addition to that, we have that you closed the Environmental Protection Unit in Oklahoma as a free standing unit. You told me when we met that you had rolled it into your Federalism unit, but I was just on the Federalism's unit's Website and the word "environmental" doesn't even appear on that.

And it appears to be run by the solicitor general and it says over and over again that it's involved in appellate litigation. And of course, if you're bringing an action, you're not starting at the appellate level. Finally, the --

PRUITT:
Senator, if I may -- the Deputy Solicitor General Clayton Banks was actually employed by the previous attorney general. He has been designated a deputy solicitor general and is responsible for environmental related advise and consent to ...

WHITEHOUSE:
Yep.

PRUITT:
... those agencies.

WHITEHOUSE:
Yeah, that's a different function, though. That's a different function than to bring an action. I've been an attorney general, too. I know the difference. The attorney general has an obligation to provide lawyers to give advice to agencies, but you also have the authority to bring criminal actions, if you wish, and you have the authority to bring civil actions, if you wish.

And it's those authorities that I believe have not gotten much attention. And the last piece of that, because you will have a chance to respond, but I'm on a short clock, thanks, is that there was an Oklahoma Environmental Crimes Taskforce that your predecessor led and it describes.

And I'd ask to have these documents put into the -- the record, from 1997 to 2010, the OECTS, the Environmental Crimes Taskforce of the Environmental Protection Unit in conduction with the EPA and other entities conducted 142 criminal investigations resulting in 56 prosecutions.

Criminal cases resulted individual convictions on 110 felony and 21 misdemeanor counts, $8 million in fines, 28 years of jail time. We can put it in the record. Is there even -- do you even participate in the Oklahoma Environmental Crimes Taskforce still?

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

PRUITT:
Senator, as I've indicated, we each day with our Department of Environmental Quality on enforcement along with other agencies. I guess it's a matter of quote/unquote "who takes the credit for that type of enforcement." But those individuals have offered statements to this body. They are a matter of the record.

You've heard statements that the Chairman has referred to that -- that we have worked diligently with those agencies to enforce appropriately, and I would refer to their statements in response.

BARRASSO:
Thank you -- Senator Booker.

BOOKER:
Thank you very much. So first of all, I appreciate you talking about environmental justice and mentioned that we did talk about that and I felt good about your personal commitments to at least me that you were pursue that. I just want to just go through this last point. I want to put together a fact pattern here, then let you have that and dispute it.

I know there's at least one point in here you dispute, but I really want to get to the -- what I draw from the facts, and you can again, have the last word. So, what I'm seeing, when I put together all the facts, and just a pattern.

You know, there was a litigation from your predecessor that you declined to conclude when you got in against a polluting poultry producers who were dumping hundreds of thousands of tons of chicken waste into the Illinois River shed. You shut down the Environmental Enforcement Unit in your office.

This is the one I know you -- you do not agree with me on, but I see it as that you also attempted to suspend Oklahoma's Water Quality Standard for three years. But the last fact, and again, you have the last word here, sir, is that you also supported a constitutional amendment State Question 777, the so called, Right to Farm amendment that would have made it more difficult for the Oklahoma State Legislature.

Again, you talk about federalism, now you're trying to take the teeth out of the Oklahoma State Legislature and local government to enact their own environmental laws in the future. And -- and this kind of support, and I looked all throughout magazines, you're going in support of this is clear. Here you are in the Pro and Con about supporting 777.

Here is, mostly is world boards who are against you on this in your state. Here's one from Tulsa World Endorsement, that said, "The measure would prevent future state and local regulation on farming and livestock activities, unless the state has a compelling state interest." A very high legal standards, as I know, not the lawyer that you are, sir, but I know that, that is a very hard one, standard to meet.

And so this is the challenge is that, this idea that you're supporting federalism versus, it seems to me a pattern of you being on the side of the polluters, and even trying to take the teeth out of the state legislature's ability to regulate these harmful environmental toxins. I'm happy that this -- this ballot initiative was overwhelming defeated by Oklahoma voters.

But as I see you ascending potentially to this very important position, sir, I just worry about whose side you're going to be on, given the fact pattern that I have about big industry, about big pollution, especially as I know the billions of animals that we have in K-foes (?) that are poisoning rivers all over this country.

I really just want you to respond that, sir. And I'll says, because this will be my last word, you will have it, I want to thank you for your indulgence. I know this has been a long day and I want to thank your family as well.

PRUITT:
Thank you, Senator. And let me -- let me respond. There's been some confusion about the litigation. You made references to several things there and if I may respond to a couple. The litigation to which you refer, Senator Boozman actually refer to it as well.

My predecessor did bring an action approximately 2007 time frame against the poultry industry and many other defendants in the northern district of Oklahoma. That case had been fully litigated, submitted to the court for decision before I ever came into office.

It was an example of potentially regulation through litigation, and I've talked about that earlier in response to questions. I had every authority to dismiss that case when I came into office. I did not. That case is still pending today, awaiting a federal judge's decision. I've taken no action to undermine that case.

I've done nothing but file briefs in support of the court making a decision. So I -- that's a point of clarity on the litigation. With respect to our -- our office, I submitted this in response to Senator Whitehouse's request. We met earlier, or excuse me, last week and he asked about FTEs and budget. I've submitted responses to him.

We have almost a $700,000 budget that the administrator of our office has attributed to environmental related activities and seven FTEs that are associated with that as well. So, I want to make sure that those two -- those two items were shared with you in response to your -- your comments.

BOOKER:
You have nothing to respond to on -- on the State Question 777?

PRUITT:

The State Question 777, we're actually involved in a ballot drafting of those things and so, though -- though you represented that I was actively involved in endorsement or involved in the -- I -- I really was not as far as the actual vote and -- now, there was some op-ed and some decisions, but I've tried to -- to make sure that I didn't get involved in that because of our other obligations in the office.

BARRASSO:
Senator Carper?

BOOKER:
And I can submit this for the record, sir, the -- the ...

BARRASSO:
Yes, without objection.

BOOKER:
Thank you, sir.

CARPER:
Mr. Pruitt, earlier today I mentioned that I'd submitted a list of about 50 questions to you shortly after Christmas. I asked for a response by January 9, and got none, and I asked my staff earlier this morning if we'd gotten the written responses on those questions as of today, and I understand that we have not.

You're going to receive a number of question for the record from us, Democrat and Republicans, and I'm anxious what your response are to those -- those questions. But we need your answers. And we need good answers. And the idea of waiting two or three weeks and not providing anything is just unacceptable. So just -- just to put on -- put that out there.

PRUITT:
Well, if I could, Senator ...

CARPER:

Secondly, I would like to ask you a question, if I may.

PRUITT:
... if -- if I may offer this. I tried to, and I talked to the Chairman about this, with respect to your -- your questions you submitted, I was respecting the protocol of the Chair in responding to those questions and committed that those questions would be answered for the record post the hearing, and that's what I was directed to do by the Chairman.

CARPER:
All right. Second, based on your earlier statements, I just want to clarify something. If confirmed, can we have your assurances that the EPA will continue to regulate mercury emissions from power plants under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act, and you will not defer to the states?

PRUITT:
Mercury, under the Section 112 is -- is something that the EPA should deal with and regulate.

CARPER:
Thank you. I -- I came across a quote from you that said -- I think you stated the following about an EPA rule involving cross-state smog pollution and the EPA rule. I think you were quoted as saying, "Threatened the competitive edge Oklahoma has enjoyed for years with low cost and reliable electric generation.

This low cost energy not only benefits Oklahoma manufacturers, but gives our state a considerable edge in recruiting new jobs." And the question I would ask, as at the peril of those of us who live in states that are downwind from where Oklahoma might be, as you lower your energy cost to benefit Oklahomans, I just want to ask you, in the spirit of the Golden Rule, keep in mind what that means for us.

Keep in mind what that means for -- for us, because in my state, as I said earlier on, I can shut down my state's economy and we still would have been out of compliance from any number of clean air requirements, and that was not because of anything we put up in the air.

It's because of what folks out to the west put up in the air and it eventually came down to end of America's tail pipe. I would just ask that you do that. The last, we have a chart, this quickly chart, may we see this chart? This is an interesting chart. This is what we call a busy chart. It's a busy chart.

And it looks at the issue of cross-border air pollution. As you can see with this chart, smog pollution in our country moves all over the place, I mean all over the place. As I mentioned, as Delaware's governor, they shut down my state in order to come into compliance with the clean air challenges.

Under your vision for EPA, it sounds like states will be left on their own to deal with this very complex problem that we see demonstrated right here. And I would just ask, how do states address this pollution, this kind of pollution you see demonstrated here without the assistance of the EPA?

PRUITT:
Well, Senator, as I indicated earlier today, I believe that, as an example the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule to which you just referred is a very important authority that the EPA needs to exercise. It needs to do so within the processes that have been provided by the statute. But it -- it's something that's very important for the EPA to perform and execute.

CARPER:
All right. Mr. -- I was going to submit a request to submit for the records, Mr. Chairman to a number of letters of concerns that about, and many letters in opposition to, in some cases for, other cases opposition to Mr. Pruitt's nomination, about 14 in all. I would just ask to consent to put it into the record.

BARRASSO:
Without objection.

CARPER:
Thank you so much.

BARRASSO:
Thank you.

CARPER:
And again to Mr. Pruitt, your family, thank you all for -- for joining us today. I just want to say I peek at KD (ph) your son right, sitting right behind you. I could barely see KD's lips moving when you spoke. And so, I suspect he has a future in law, I'm not sure, but ...

PRUITT:
We'll see. Thank you, Senator.

BARRASSO:
And, Attorney General Pruitt, I do want to follow up with what you said, the -- you were instructed by the committee. I have a copy for the record of the January 9th letter, which was the day that you were asked to submit the 52 answers to the responses.

It's a letter from me to the Ranking Member saying, "Please note, the EPW Committee does not require nominees to responded to questions in advance of a hearing." And I know you'll be responding to the written questions that will be submitted by tomorrow night.

CARPER:
Mr. Chairman, could I just add -- add a short thing?

That -- that's -- that's a conversation between you and the Chairman, I understand that. But again, I just reiterate, you'll receive a lot of questions, including some that have been unanswered from the 50 or so I submitted two or three weeks ago. We need your responses. We need your responses. And hope the Chairman will give you a reasonable amount of time to respond to those question, because there'll be quite a few of them, and they're not going to be like multiple choice answers. It'll -- they won't be true and false. They'll be more complex. Thank you.

BARRASSO:

Additionally, I'm going to introduce for the record an article from the Economist about mercury and the Mercury Rule, and it's interesting because it says, "Rule making is being made to look more beneficial under Barak Obama." But it goes to say, "A casual listener would have assumed that all these benefits came from reduced mercury.

In fact, reduce mercury explained none of the purported future reduction in deaths, heart attacks and asthma and less than 0.01 percent of the monetary benefits. Instead, almost all of the benefits came from concomitant reductions in a pollutant that was not the principle target of the Mercury Rule, namely fine particles.

And I'll submit that for the record as we look at the issues going into the -- in the future. So I want to thank all of the members of the Committee for your patience. I certainly want to thank the nominee for his time and his testimony today. The hearing is adjourned.

List of Panel Members and Witnesses

PANEL MEMBERS:
SEN. JOHN BARRASSO, R-WYO. CHAIRMAN

SEN. JAMES M. INHOFE, R-OKLA.

SEN. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, R-W.VA.

SEN. MICHAEL D. CRAPO, R-IDAHO

SEN. JOHN BOOZMAN, R-ARK.

SEN. JEFF SESSIONS, R-ALA.

SEN. ROGER WICKER, R-MISS.

SEN. DEB FISCHER, R-NEB.

SEN. MIKE ROUNDS, R-S.D.

SEN. DAN SULLIVAN, R-ALASKA

SEN. JONI ERNST, R-IOWA

SEN. JERRY MORAN, R-KAN.

SEN. THOMAS R. CARPER, D-DEL. RANKING MEMBER

SEN. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, D-MD.

SEN. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, D-R.I.

SEN. JEFF MERKLEY, D-ORE.

SEN. KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, D-N.Y.

SEN. CORY BOOKER, D-N.J.

SEN. EDWARD J. MARKEY, D-MASS.

SEN. KAMALA HARRIS, D-CALIF.

SEN. TAMMY DUCKWORTH, D-ILL.

SEN. JAMES LANKFORD, R-OKLA.

SEN. BERNARD SANDERS, I-VT.

WITNESSES:
STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL SCOTT PRUITT, R-OKLA.,
NOMINATED TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

Source: **CQ Transcripts**

Message

From: Olsen, Elizabeth (EPW) [Elizabeth_Olsen@epw.senate.gov]
Sent: 9/14/2017 3:31:13 PM
To: 'wwehrum@hunton.com' [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
Subject: Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works: Witness Invitation
Attachments: Wehrum Witness Invites 9.20.2017.pdf

September 14, 2017

William L. Wehrum Jr.
2200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Wehrum:

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, we would like to invite you to testify before the Full Committee on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nominations of Michael Dourson, Matthew Leopold, David Ross, and William Wehrum, to be Assistant Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Jeffery Baran to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In order to maximize the opportunity to discuss this matter with you, we ask that your oral testimony be limited to five minutes. Your written testimony can be comprehensive and will be included in the printed record in its entirety, together with any other materials you would like to submit.

Please email a copy of your testimony to Elizabeth_Olsen@epw.senate.gov and deliver 50 hard copies, 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Please include a brief biography with photo. If you plan to use or refer to any charts, graphs, diagrams, photos, maps or other exhibits in your testimony, please include an electronic or hard copy in your advance submissions. Exhibits or other materials that are not provided to the Committee by this time cannot be used for the purpose of presenting testimony. Testimony should be delivered to the Environment and Public Works Committee at 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

If you have any questions about this invitation or the hearing, please feel free to contact Richard Russell, Majority Staff Director, at Ex. 6 or Gabrielle Batkin, Minority Staff Director, at Ex. 6

Sincerely,

John Barrasso, M.D.
Chairman

Tom Carper
Ranking Member

Elizabeth "Lizzy" Olsen, J.D.
Majority Director of Operations
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
C: Ex. 6

O: Ex. 6

JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING, CHAIRMAN

JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA
SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, WEST VIRGINIA
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS
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JERRY MORAN, KANSAS
MIKE ROUNDS, SOUTH DAKOTA
JONI ERNST, IOWA
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CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
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KAMALA HARRIS, CALIFORNIA

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
GABRIELLE BATKIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

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2200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037

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Please email a copy of your testimony to Elizabeth_Olsen@epw.senate.gov and deliver 50 hard copies, 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Please include a brief biography with photo. If you plan to use or refer to any charts, graphs, diagrams, photos, maps or other exhibits in your testimony, please include an electronic or hard copy in your advance submissions. Exhibits or other materials that are not provided to the Committee by this time cannot be used for the purpose of presenting testimony. Testimony should be delivered to the Environment and Public Works Committee at 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

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Ex. 6

Sincerely,

John Barrasso, M.D.
Chairman

Tom Carper
Ranking Member

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Message

From: Ringel, Aaron [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1654BDC951284A6D899A418A89FB0ABF-RINGEL, AAR]
Sent: 9/15/2017 7:39:23 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: OGE financial disclosure report-following up on vm

Thanks for passing these along.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2017, at 3:16 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

Here's another ...

From: Sean Reilly [mailto:sreilly@eenews.net]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:45 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: OGE financial disclosure report-following up on vm

Mr. Wehrum:

As noted in my voicemail, I'm writing a story this afternoon on the attached disclosure document. Two questions:

1. Has anything changed (particularly in terms of your client list) since you filled out the disclosure report?
2. Given that your clients include entities with members either regulated by EPA and/or that lobby on environmental legislation, do you have any comment on criticism from environmentalists that this would affect your ability to serve impartially as head of OAR?

My deadline (apologies that it's so tight) is 3:45 this afternoon.

Thanks very much,
Sean Reilly

Reporter
E&E News
Ph: Ex. 6 Desk)
Ph: Cell)
sreilly@eenews.net

<Financialdisclsoure-c.pdf>

Message

From: Ringel, Aaron [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1654BDC951284A6D899A418A89FB0ABF-RINGEL, AAR]
Sent: 9/14/2017 2:05:47 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: Tomorrow 9/14 Schedule

We are in SD-468.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 14, 2017, at 9:49 AM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:
>
> I'm on my way, but will be a few minutes late. Got hung up in a meeting.
>
> On Sep 13, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Palich, Christian
<palich.christian@epa.gov<mailto:palich.christian@epa.gov>> wrote:
>
> Sounds good Bill. See you there.
>
> Christian R. Palich
> Deputy Associate Administrator
> Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
> Ex. 6
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Sep 13, 2017, at 6:44 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com<mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com>> wrote:
>
> Thanks Christian. I cannot make it to the 9:00 meeting. I will meet you at Dirksen for the 10.
>
> From: Palich, Christian [mailto:palich.christian@epa.gov]
> Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 6:38 PM
> To: 'David Ross'; MLeopold@carltonfields.com<mailto:MLeopold@carltonfields.com>; 'Dourson, Michael (doursoml)'; Wehrum, William L.
> Cc: Lyons, Troy; Shimmin, Kaitlyn; Ringel, Aaron; Frye, Tony (Robert)
> Subject: Tomorrow 9/14 Schedule
>
> Hi Everyone,
>
> I have attached the most up to date line by line for reference, and below is the schedule for tomorrow for your convenience. OCIR has planned all the logistics out for tomorrow's meetings and we will ensure everyone gets where they need to be on time.
>
> *Please note we will have a 9am pre meeting with you all and our OCIR team. Once you arrive at EPA HQ please call myself at Ex. 6 or Kaitlyn Shimmin Ex. 6 and we will come down to the front desk of the North Building to get you through security. We will then promptly leave EPA at 9:30am via EPA vehicle.*
>
> Thursday, September 14
> 9:00 AM- 9:30 AM All Nominees: Meeting with OCIR
> Location: WJC North 3428 (OCIR Conference Room)
>
> 10:00 AM- 10:45 AM All Nominees: Meeting with EPW Majority Staff
> Location: 410 Dirksen (Staff: Christian Palich & Aaron Ringel)
>
> 11:00 AM- 11:30 AM DOURSON, ROSS, WEHRUM: Meeting with Senator Wicker (R-MS)
> Location: 555 Dirksen (Staff: Christian Palich & Aaron Ringel)
>
> 11:45 AM-12:15 PM DOURSON: Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI)
> Location: 530 Hart (Staff: Troy Lyons & Christian Palich)
>
> 2:15 PM- 2:45 PM ROSS & LEOPOLD: Meeting with Senator Markey (D-MA)

>
Location: 255 Dirksen
(Christian Palich & Kaitlyn Shimmin)
>
> 2:30 PM- 3:00 PM DOURSON: Meeting with Senator Carper (D-DE)
>
Location: 513 Hart (Troy
Lyons & Tony Frye)
>
> 3:30 PM- 4:00 PM ROSS: Meeting with Senator Carper (D-DE)
>
Location: 513 Hart (Troy
Lyons & Christian Palich)
>
> 4:00 PM-4:30 PM WEHRUM: Meeting with Senator Carper (D-DE)
>
Location: 513 Hart (Troy
Lyons & Aaron Ringel)
>
> 4:30 PM- 5:00 PM LEOPOLD: Meeting with Senator Carper (D-DE)
>
Location: 513 Hart (Troy
Lyons & Christian Palich)
>
> If everyone has time tonight or later this week, our team thought it might be helpful to also review Susan Bodine's confirmation hearing to get a sense of what next week will be like. (link below)
>
> https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=8A391353-EECC-4D5F-A426-848BF12054E5<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.epw.senate.gov_public_index.cfm_hearings-3FID-3D8A391353-2DEECC-2D4D5F-2DA426-2D848BF12054E5&d=DwMGaQ&c=jxhwBfk-KSV6FFIotOPGng&r=yE0vRcg1_6xRchQQPG-5bl6t8x7mw3CtiGtCUlzxLOU&m=xa-iPCcAQ-6CGqjRpOWwnfXDhGlBToOQFvO-NGUz8x8&s=KWx5NcNbmirsjiflv_C5wOBFcV7JR2nmvtsQbpx8DzQ&e=>
>
> Have a terrific evening!
>
> Christian R. Palich
> Deputy Associate Administrator
> Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
> U.S Environmental Protection Agency
> O: 202.564.4944
> C: Ex. 6
> E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov<mailto:Palich.Christian@epa.gov>
>

Message

From: Ringel, Aaron [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1654BDC951284A6D899A418A89FB0ABF-RINGEL, AAR]
Sent: 10/12/2017 2:44:55 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: QFR Responses

Believe they are being review by OMB currently.

-Aaron

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: QFR Responses

I've attached a clean table of current cases. Where do things stand with review of the draft QFR responses?

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Bill Wehrum
Partner
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bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

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Washington, DC 20037

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Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/15/2017 7:15:33 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: FW: OGE financial disclosure report-following up on vm
Attachments: Financialdisclsoure-c.pdf

Here's another ...

From: Sean Reilly [mailto:sreilly@eenews.net]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:45 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: OGE financial disclosure report-following up on vm

Mr. Wehrum:

As noted in my voicemail, I'm writing a story this afternoon on the attached disclosure document. Two questions:

1. Has anything changed (particularly in terms of your client list) since you filled out the disclosure report?
2. Given that your clients include entities with members either regulated by EPA and/or that lobby on environmental legislation, do you have any comment on criticism from environmentalists that this would affect your ability to serve impartially as head of OAR?

My deadline (apologies that it's so tight) is 3:45 this afternoon.

Thanks very much,
Sean Reilly

Reporter
E&E News
Ph: Ex. 6 (Desk)
Ph: Ex. 6 (Cell)
sreilly@eenews.net

Executive Branch Personnel
Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

Filer's Information

Wehrum, William Ludwig

Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:
None

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:
Committee on Environment and Public Works

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Wehrum, William Ludwig [electronically signed on 06/02/2017 by Wehrum, William Ludwig in Integrity.gov]

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).
/s/ Fugh, Justina, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 09/08/2017 by Fugh, Justina in Integrity.gov]

Other review conducted by
/s/ Fugh, Justina, Ethics Official [electronically signed on 09/08/2017 by Fugh, Justina in Integrity.gov]

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification
/s/ Apol, David, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 09/08/2017 by Apol, David in Integrity.gov]

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	Hunton & Williams LLP	Washington, District of Columbia	Law Firm	partner	9/2007	Present

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Hunton & Williams LLP (law firm)	N/A		Partnership Share	$2,154,504
2	Hunton & Williams LLP capital account	N/A	$250,001 - $500,000		None (or less than $201)
3	T. Rowe Price Institutional Large Cap Core Growth Fund (TPLGX)	Yes	$15,001 - $50,000		$1,001 - $2,500
4	Dodge & Cox Stock Fund (DODGX)	Yes	$15,001 - $50,000		$1,001 - $2,500
5	Vanguard Inst. Index Fund (VINIX)	Yes	$15,001 - $50,000		$2,501 - $5,000
6	Neuberger Berman Genesis Fund (NRGSX)--Class R6	Yes	$1,001 - $15,000		$201 - $1,000
7	Vanguard Extended Mkt Index (VIEIX)	Yes	$1,001 - $15,000		$201 - $1,000
8	Fidelity Diversified International Fund (FDIVX)	Yes	$50,001 - $100,000		$5,001 - $15,000
9	NT Collective Emerging Mkts Equity Index Fund	Yes	$15,001 - $50,000		$1,001 - $2,500
10	Vanguard Total Bond Mkt. Index Fun -- Inst. Shares (VBTIX)	Yes	$250,001 - $500,000		$15,001 - $50,000
11	Federated Treasury Obligations Inst. Money Mkt. (TOIXX)	Yes	$50,001 - $100,000		$2,501 - $5,000

#	DESCRIPTION		EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
12	Fidelity Puritan K (FPUKX)		Yes	$500,001 - $1,000,000		$50,001 - $100,000
13	Longleaf Partners Fund (LLPFX)		Yes	$100,001 - $250,000		$15,001 - $50,000
14	Dodge & Cox Income Fund (DODIX)		Yes	$100,001 - $250,000		$1,001 - $2,500
15	US brokerage money market account (cash)		N/A	$1,001 - $15,000		None (or less than $201)
16	Hunton & Williams LLP (discretionary partnership distribution)	See Endnote		$100,001 - $250,000		None (or less than $201)

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
1	Hunton & Williams LLP	Washington, District of Columbia	The full amount of the capital account would be returned to me after departure.	9/2007
2	Hunton & Williams LLP	Washington, District of Columbia	I will continue to participate in this defined contribution plan. The plan sponsor will not make further contributions after my separation.	9/2007
3	Hunton & Williams LLP	Washington, District of Columbia	I will continue to participate in this defined contribution plan. The plan sponsor will not make further contributions after my separation.	9/2007
4	Boyle Investment Co.	Memphis, Tennessee	I will continue to participate in this defined contribution plan. The plan sponsor will not make further contributions after my separation.	11/2009
5	Hunton & Williams LLP	Washington, District of Columbia	discretionary partnership distribution for work performed during the firm's fiscal year ending March 31, 2018. I will not accept this distribution and will forfeit it unless I receive it before I assume the duties of the position as Assistant Administrator.	6/2017

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding $5,000 in a Year

#	SOURCE NAME	CITY, STATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
1	Hunton & Williams LLP	Washington, District of Columbia	I am an equity partner in the firm.
2	American Forest & Paper Ass'n	Washington, District of Columbia	Legal Services
3	American Fuel & Petrochemical Mfrs.	Washington, District of Columbia	Legal Services
4	American Petroleum Institute	Washington, District of Columbia	Legal Services
5	B10 Litigation Coalition	Washington, District of Columbia	Legal Services
6	Brick Industry Ass'n	Cary, North Carolina	Legal Services
7	Diageo	Norwalk, Connecticut	Legal Services
8	Evonik Corp.	Parsippany, New Jersey	Legal Services
9	Gas Processor Ass'n	Washington, District of Columbia	Legal Services
10	Kinder Morgan Inc.	Westminster, Colorado	Legal Services
11	Koch Industries	Witchita, Kansas	Legal Services
12	Lowe's Companies Inc.	Charlotte, North Carolina	Legal Services
13	National Stone, Sand and Gravel Ass'n	Alexandria, Virginia	Legal Services
14	Pfizer Inc.	New York, New York	Legal Services

#	SOURCE NAME	CITY, STATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
15	Salt River Project	Phoenix, Arizona	Legal Services
16	Spectra Energy Corp.	Houston, Texas	Legal Services
17	Sunflower Electric Power Corp.	Hays, Kansas	Legal Services
18	Tile Council of North America	Anderson, South Carolina	Legal Services
19	Utility Air Regulatory Group	Washington, District of Columbia	Legal Services
20	Whitaker Greer Co.	Alliance, Ohio	Legal Services

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

None

6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	U.S. bank account No. 1 (cash)	N/A	$250,001 - $500,000	Interest	$201 - $1,000
2	U.S. bank account No. 2 (cash)	N/A	$250,001 - $500,000	Interest	$15,001 - $50,000
3	U.S. bank account No. 3 (cash)	N/A	$250,001 - $500,000	Interest	$15,001 - $50,000
4	U.S. Brokerage Money Mkt (cash)	N/A	$100,001 - $250,000	Interest	$201 - $1,000
5	U.S. bank account No. 4 (cash)	N/A	$250,001 - $500,000	Interest	$5,001 - $15,000
6	U.S. bank account No. 5 (cash)	N/A	$250,001 - $500,000	Interest	$2,501 - $5,000

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
7	U.S. bank account No. 6 (cash)	N/A	$15,001 - $50,000	Interest	$201 - $1,000
8	U.S. bank account No. 7 (cash)	N/A	$250,001 - $500,000	Interest	None (or less than $201)

7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

8. Liabilities

None

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

Endnotes

PART	#	ENDNOTE
2.	16	NOTE: This is an estimate only. The amount could be as low as zero.

Summary of Contents

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than $200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities that (1) ended the reporting period with a value greater than $1,000 or (2) produced more than $200 in income during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is $0 - $200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

Future employment
Leave of absence
Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding $5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than $5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than $1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than $200 during the reporting period
Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities that (1) ended the reporting period with a value greater than $1,000 or (2) produced more than $200 in income during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is $0 - $200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, that (1) ended the reporting period with a value greater than $1,000 or (2) produced more than $200 in investment income during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of $5,000 or less (unless more than $200 of income was produced). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is $0 - $200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of $1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over $10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (limitations apply for PAS filers); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed $10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

Gifts totaling more than $375 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
Travel reimbursements totaling more than $375 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of $150 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

Privacy Act Statement

Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (the Act), 5 U.S.C. app. § 101 et seq., as amended by the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-105) (STOCK Act), and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U. S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with sections 105 and 402(b)(1) of the Act or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(d)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding when the Government is a party or in order to comply with a judge-issued subpoena; (4) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (5) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (6) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (7) to the Department of Justice or in certain legal proceedings when the disclosing agency, an employee of the disclosing agency, or the United States is a party to litigation or has an interest in the litigation and the use of such records is deemed relevant and necessary to the litigation; (8) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another; (9) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of an individual who is the subject of the record; (10) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to an OGE Government-wide system of records; and (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of three hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-3917.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number (that number, 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/12/2017 2:41:19 PM
To: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: QFR Responses
Attachments: Wehrum - Pending Cases [Oct 12, 2017]-c.pdf

I've attached a clean table of current cases. Where do things stand with review of the draft QFR responses?

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Bill Wehrum
Partner
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bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

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Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Wehrum – Pending Cases
October 12, 2017

Case Number Title	Party Attorney	Originating Case Number Origin
08-1277 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Fuels & Petrochemical Manufacturers Association; American Petroleum Institute; National Petrochemical & Refiners Association; Western States Petroleum Association	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
08-1281 Env. Integrity Project v. EPA	American Fuels & Petrochemical Manufacturers Association; American Petroleum Institute; National Petrochemical & Refiners Association	EPA-1 : EPA-73FR35838 Environmental Protection Agency
09-1332 Kinder Morgan CO2 Co., LP v. EPA	Kinder Morgan CO2 Co., LP	EPA-1 : EPA-74FR56260 Environmental Protection Agency
11-1023 Gas Processors Association v. EPA	Gas Processors Association	EPA-1 : EPA-75FR74458 Environmental Protection Agency
11-1309 American Petroleum Institute, et al v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute; Independent Petroleum Association of America	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR38748 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1208 National Rural Electric Coop. v. EPA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR10324 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1352 National Rural Electric Cooper v. EPA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR34830 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1405 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR49490 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1406 Gas Processors Association v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR49490 Environmental Protection Agency
12-1442 American Petroleum Institute, et al v. EPA	11/13/2012 Open American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers; American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR56422 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1063 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-78FR2210 Environmental Protection Agency

13-1108 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR49490 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1233 Conservation Law Foundation, et al v. EPA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association	EPA-1 : EPA-78FR6674 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1256 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA	American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute; American Forest & Paper Association; American Iron and Steel Institute; American Wood Council; Biomass Power Association; Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America; Corn Refiners Association; National Association of Manufacturers; National Oilseed Processors; Rubber Manufacturers Association; Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association	EPA-1 : EPA-76FR15608 Environmental Protection Agency
13-1289 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-78FR58416 Environmental Protection Agency
14-1199 PSEG Power LLC, et al v. EPA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association	EPA-1 : EPA-79FR48072 Environmental Protection Agency
14-1267 Georgia-Pacific LLC v. EPA	Georgia-Pacific LLC	EPA-1 : EPA-79FR60898 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1021 Gas Processors Association v. EPA	Gas Processors Association	EPA-1 : EPA-79FR70352 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1044 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-79FR79018 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1197 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR25068 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1473 Gas Processors Association v. EPA	Gas Processors Association	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR64262 Environmental Protection Agency
15-1487 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	Brick Industry Association	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR65470 Environmental Protection Agency

15-1492 Brick Industry Association v. EPA	Brick Industry Association	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR65470 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1021 Sierra Club, et al v. EPA, et al	American Chemistry Council; American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute; American Forest & Paper Association; American Iron and Steel Institute; American Wood Council; Biomass Power Association; Coalition for Responsible Waste Incineration; Council of Industrial Boiler Owners; National Association of Manufacturers; National Oilseed Processors Association; Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Inc.	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR72790 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1033 American Fuel & Petrochemical, et al v. EPA	American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers; American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR75178 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1035 Air Alliance Houston, et al v. EPA, et al	American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers; American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-80FR75178 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1179 Brick Industry Association v. EPA	Brick Industry Association	EPA-1 : EPA-81FR31234 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1270 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-81FR35824 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1271 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-81FR35944 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1345 American Petroleum Institute v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-81FR51102 Environmental Protection Agency
16-1425 Natural Resources Defense Coun v. EPA	American Petroleum Institute	EPA-1 : EPA-77FR49490 Environmental Protection Agency
17-1088 Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA	Utility Air Regulatory Group	EPA-1 : EPA-82FR4594 Environmental Protection Agency

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/11/2017 3:12:18 PM
To: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]
Subject: RE: Confirmation Hearing

Thanks.

From: Palich, Christian [mailto:palich.christian@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Ringel, Aaron
Subject: Re: Confirmation Hearing

Hi Bill,

Just confirmed it will be the 20th for the hearing.

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2017, at 10:14 AM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

> Elizabeth Horner called me Friday afternoon to talk about the hearing. She had not heard that the 20th was locked in.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ringel, Aaron [mailto:ringel.aaron@epa.gov]
> **Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 10:09 AM
> **To:** Wehrum, William L.
> **Cc:** Palich, Christian
> **Subject:** Re: Confirmation Hearing
>
> Confirming now, latest we had was the 20th. Where are you hearing different from so we can make sure there is no confusion?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Sep 11, 2017, at 9:56 AM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:
>
> > Aaron – Is the hearing confirmed for the 20th? I've gotten conflicting reports. Thanks.

<image001.jpg>

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/18/2017 1:50:38 PM
To: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: Tomorrows Schedule
Attachments: Wehrum Bio Sept 2017-c-c-c.doc

Christian – Here's a short bio and picture.

From: Palich, Christian [mailto:palich.christian@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:41 AM
To: Shimmin, Kaitlyn; 'Dourson, Michael (doursoml)'; 'David Ross'; MLeopold@carltonfields.com; Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Lyons, Troy; Ringel, Aaron; Shimmin, Kaitlyn; Frye, Tony (Robert)
Subject: RE: Tomorrows Schedule

Hi Everyone,

Please let me know if you have sent Elizabeth Olsen (Elizabeth_Olsen@epw.senate.gov) your brief bio and photo as requested or not, if you haven't you can send to me and I am happy to get it to her today or send directly it's up to you. I know at least one of you had sent it to her so just wanted to clarify so we can get everything in to EPW. Please let me know either way.

I have sent you all the opening statements and am handling everything associated with that including delivering the copies.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

From: Shimmin, Kaitlyn
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 6:11 PM
To: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; 'Dourson, Michael (doursoml)' <doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu>; 'David Ross' < Ex. 6 MLeopold@carltonfields.com; wwehrum@hunton.com
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Tomorrows Schedule

Hello Everyone-

Attached is the most up to date schedule. And below is Monday & Tuesdays's details. As always, this is subject to change. If you have flights for next week please forward so that I can make sure we don't double book you.

Thanks again and great job today!

Monday, September 18

12:00 PM- 12:30 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Nelson's Office Staff: CoS, Susie Quinn; LD, Carla McGarvey Location: 716 Hart
4:30 PM-5:00 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) Location: 530 Hart

Tuesday, September 19

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM	**LEOPOLD:** Final Pre- Hearing Prep
12:30 PM- 1:00 PM	**DOURSON:** Meeting with Senator Merkley Location: US Capitol ST-64
1:00 PM- 2:00 PM	**WEHRUM:** Final Pre- Hearing Prep
1:30 PM- 2:30 PM	**DOURSON:** Final Pre-Hearing Prep
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	**WEHRUM:** Meeting with Senator Inhofe (R-OK) Location: 205 Russell
3:00 PM- 3:30 PM	**LEOPOLD:** Meeting with Senator Inhofe (R-OK) Location: 205 Russell
3:30 PM- 4:30 PM	**ROSS:** Final Pre-Hearing Prep
5:00 PM-5:30 PM	**ROSS:** Meeting with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) Location: 530 Hart

Kaitlyn Shimmin
Special Assistant Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
O: (202) 564-4108
C: Ex. 6
Shimmin.Kaitlyn@epa.gov

From: Palich, Christian
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 6:27 PM
To: 'Dourson, Michael (doursoml)' <doursoml@ucmail.uc.edu>; 'David Ross' < Ex. 6 MLeopold@carltonfields.com; wwehrum@hunton.com
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: Tomorrows Schedule

Hi Everyone,

I have attached the most up to date line by line for reference, and below is the schedule for tomorrow for your convenience (please note some added meetings for next week). Congratulations to all of you for terrific meetings today, our team here at OCIR unanimously agrees they went incredibly well!

Please note to be here no later than 9:15am. Once you arrive at EPA HQ please call me at Ex. 6 and I will come down to the front desk of the North Building to get you through security. We will then all walk to the mock hearing holding room together.

Friday, September 15

10:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Mock Hearing
12:15 PM- 1:15 PM	Debrief and Feedback

Enjoy the evening,

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

Bill Wehrum is a partner and the head of the Administrative Law Group at Hunton & Williams LLP. Bill's practice focuses on air quality issues including regulatory development and related litigation; compliance counseling and enforcement defense; legislative advice; and permitting. Prior to joining Hunton & Williams, Bill served for two years as Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He has a BS in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University and a JD from Widener University. Bill is a member of the District of Columbia bar.

Message

From: Ringel, Aaron [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1654BDC951284A6D899A418A89FB0ABF-RINGEL, AAR]
Sent: 9/11/2017 2:09:29 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: Confirmation Hearing

Confirming now, latest we had was the 20th. Where are you hearing different from so we can make sure there is no confusion?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2017, at 9:56 AM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

> Aaron – Is the hearing confirmed for the 20th? I've gotten conflicting reports. Thanks.

<image001.jpg>

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 9/19/2017 9:47:21 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: Re: Question from The Hill newspaper

That's really all I need for a response, happy to talk more later...on train now w limited service

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 19, 2017, at 5:24 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

> Might be easier to talk. The bottom line is that the case is a challenge to an OSHA workplace exposure limit for respirable silica. It has absolutely nothing to do with EPA or with any of my duties/responsibilities as AA for air.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Bowman, Liz [mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 5:16 PM
> **To:** Wehrum, William L.
> **Cc:** Lyons, Troy; Ringel, Aaron; Palich, Christian
> **Subject:** Re: Question from The Hill newspaper
>
> If you want to send me information and background, I can respond on your behalf.
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> On Sep 19, 2017, at 1:32 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:
>
> > Here is an inquiry from the Hill. I have not responded and do not plan to.
> >
> > **From:** Lydia Wheeler [mailto:lwheeler@thehill.com]
> > **Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 12:23 PM
> > **To:** Wehrum, William L.
> > **Subject:** Question from The Hill newspaper
> >
> > Mr. Wehrum,
> >
> > I understand you are arguing on behalf of NSSGA on the 26th before the DC Circuit Court of Appeals in North American's Building Trade v. OSHA.
> >
> > The arguments follow your nomination hearing to be assistant administrator for air and radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency. Do you see this as a conflict of interest or improper? Why or why not?

--

Lydia Wheeler
Staff Writer, Federal Regulations
The Hill newspaper
lwheeler@thehill.com
cell: Ex. 6
@wheelerlydia

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/18/2017 1:22:42 PM
To: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]
Subject: RE: QFRs

Thanks again.

From: Palich, Christian [mailto:palich.christian@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:22 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.; Lyons, Troy
Cc: Ringel, Aaron
Subject: RE: QFRs

We will deliver the 50 copies today as well as emailing the PDF version to committee.

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:20 AM
To: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Cc: Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: QFRs

Thanks Christian. Does your team plan to send the committee all the copies they requested, or do I need to take care of it? I think your note answers the question, but I definitely don't want this to slip through the cracks.

Thanks for the news about Senator Inhofe. Please pass along my appreciation if you have a chance. I will do the same on Wednesday.

From: Palich, Christian [mailto:palich.christian@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:17 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.; Lyons, Troy
Cc: Ringel, Aaron
Subject: RE: QFRs

Thanks for letting us know Bill. Also, wanted you to have the final PDF version of your opening statement which I will get to committee.

In good news as well, Senator Inhofe will be introducing you on Wednesday!

Thank you,

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 5:05 PM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Cc: Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: QFRs

Wednesday the 27th would be a full week ahead of markup. If the deadline can be set on that day, I should be able to bang out answers. Thursday would be better.

From: Lyons, Troy [mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:52 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Cc: Ringel, Aaron; Palich, Christian
Subject: Re: QFRs

Thanks, Bill. Extra time may be difficult in order to make the October 4th markup. I'd hate for you and/or to be delayed. Let us check w the committee to see if there is any flexibility.

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 (cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2017, at 4:09 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

> Gentlemen – I have oral argument in a complex case in the DC Circuit on Tuesday, Sept. 26. From this morning's discussions, it sounds like QFRs will be due on or around that date. If that is the case, I will need an extra couple of days – hopefully until at least that Thursday – to respond. I will not have time to spend on the QFRs between the confirmation hearing and the oral argument.

<image001.jpg>

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/19/2017 9:08:00 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: FW: Message from Unknown sender (Ex. 6
Attachments: VoiceMessage.wav

Law360 ...

From: Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System [mailto:unityconnection@hwaucsums01.ad.hunton.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: Message from Unknown sender (+Ex. 6

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/18/2017 1:20:35 PM
To: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]
Subject: RE: QFRs

Looking at my calendar, I guess I will get the chance to thank him tomorrow afternoon.

From: Wehrum, William L.
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:20 AM
To: 'Palich, Christian'; Lyons, Troy
Cc: Ringel, Aaron
Subject: RE: QFRs

Thanks Christian. Does your team plan to send the committee all the copies they requested, or do I need to take care of it? I think your note answers the question, but I definitely don't want this to slip through the cracks.

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Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:17 AM
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Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 5:05 PM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>

Cc: Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: QFRs

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Cc: Ringel, Aaron; Palich, Christian
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_____

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 cell)

Sent from my iPhone

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<image001.jpg>

Bill Wehrum
Partner
wwehrum@hunton.com
p 202.955.1637
bio | vCard | blog | LinkedIn

Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

Message

From: Leopold, Matthew Z. [MLeopold@carltonfields.com]
Sent: 11/3/2017 6:05:01 PM
To: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]; Dave Ross [Ex. 6 Dourson, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb29bf491d9a4c3ab569022bcd205a0a-Dourson, Mi]
CC: Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=becb3f33f9a14acd8112d898cc7853c6-Shimmin, Ka]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]; Rodrick, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6515dbe46dae466da53c8a3aa3be8cc2-Rodrick, Ch]
Subject: RE: Congratulations

Troy, I read that Bill is getting a cloture vote. Any updates on timing?

Thanks, Matt

NOMINATIONS

Senate approves FERC and DOE picks, sets calendar for others

Sam Mintz and Christa Marshall, E&E News reporters

Published: Friday, November 3, 2017

The Senate yesterday confirmed a group of nominees to top positions at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy, and advanced the nomination of a controversial pick for U.S. EPA's air office.

Among those approved by voice vote were FERC nominees Kevin McIntyre and Richard Glick, who will fill the remaining empty seats on the independent agency's five-person commission once they are sworn in.

McIntyre, a Jones Day energy lawyer, will take over from Neil Chatterjee as chairman at a crucial time for the agency, which is currently working on evaluating a controversial grid pricing proposal from DOE (*Energywire*, Nov. 2).

"I am very pleased to welcome Kevin and Rich to the Commission, and I look forward to working with them on behalf of the American people," Chatterjee, a former aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), said in a statement.

"I've enjoyed getting to know Kevin through the confirmation process and am eager to start working with him, and it will be great to reunite with Rich Glick, my former Senate colleague."

Glick is currently a Democratic aide for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The chamber confirmed Steven Winberg to be assistant secretary of fossil energy, DOE's arm overseeing coal, oil and natural gas.

Winberg, a former vice president for research and development at Consol Energy Inc., vowed during the nomination process to support research on carbon capture and sequestration technologies, regardless of budget cuts.

He is a former board chairman at the FutureGen Industrial Alliance Inc., which guided plans to build a low-emissions coal plant in Illinois before financing for the project was pulled in 2015.

Winberg was more supportive of funding research on reducing emissions from coal, telling Congress that DOE should focus on high-concentration streams of carbon dioxide.

Also approved yesterday were Paul Dabbar as DOE's undersecretary for science and Mark Menezes as undersecretary for energy.

The nominations sparked pushback earlier this year from former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, who had merged the two undersecretary positions into one and created an undersecretary of management and performance position to improve defense-waste cleanup initiatives (*Greenwire*, July 14).

Menezes most recently was the vice president of federal relations at Berkshire Hathaway Energy. He also formerly headed the energy practice at Hunton & Williams LLP, and was a chief counsel on the House Energy and Commerce Committee from 2003 to 2006. He worked on the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

As undersecretary for science, Dabbar would oversee the majority of the national labs and research in areas such as fusion and nuclear physics.

Dabbar comes to DOE from JPMorgan Chase & Co., where he was mergers and acquisitions managing director.

According to the White House, he served in Hawaii and California as a nuclear submarine office and conducted environmental research at the North Pole.

Wehrum vote likely next week

Also yesterday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) filed for cloture on the nomination of Bill Wehrum to head the EPA's air office, with a preliminary vote scheduled for next week.

Wehrum, a partner at the law firm Hunton & Williams LLP, saw his nomination clear the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last week on a 11-10 party-line vote.

For supporters, confirmation by the full Senate could now be seen as a redemption of sorts. After serving as acting head of the Office of Air and Radiation from 2005 to 2007 during the George W. Bush administration, Wehrum resigned after Senate Democrats stymied his bid to get the job permanently.

President Trump gave him another chance by again nominating him for the OAR job in early September.

Republicans have focused on Wehrum's reputation as a top Clean Air Act lawyer, with a résumé leavened by a background in engineering.

Democrats and environmental groups have targeted his industry connections and work on major regulations during his previous stint at EPA that were then struck down by federal judges.

But the only serious threat to his candidacy in this round has come from Midwestern senators allied with corn growers and the biofuels industry.

Last month, Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) held up a committee vote on the nomination until getting written commitments from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on the renewable fuel standard.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), another RFS backer who pointed to Wehrum's work on behalf of the American Petroleum Institute, had also put a hold on his nomination with the acknowledgement that the gesture is symbolic.

McConnell, separately, advanced the nomination of Derek Kan, a former Lyft Inc. executive, to be undersecretary of Transportation for policy, by filing cloture.

Kan has met little opposition in his nomination and is expected to bring a tech focus to his role as a key adviser for Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao on legislative and regulatory priorities, including autonomous vehicles and infrastructure.

Reporters Sean Reilly and Camille von Kaenel contributed.

From: Lyons, Troy [mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.; Dave Ross; Leopold, Matthew Z.; Dourson, Michael
Cc: Palich, Christian; Ringel, Aaron; Shimmin, Kaitlyn; Frye, Tony (Robert); Rodrick, Christian
Subject: Congratulations
Importance: High

Congratulations—you all have been voted out of the EPW committee! It's been a pleasure to working with you all and I look forward to working with you all on the next step—and getting you all in the door.

In terms of next steps—we are working with the White House and Leader McConnell's office to determine a path forward for your nominations.

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 (cell)

Message

From: Lyons, Troy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=15E4881C95044AB49C6C35A0F5EEF67E-LYONS, TROY]
Sent: 9/19/2017 5:32:58 PM
To: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Graham, Amy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=26722dfde5b34925b0ad9a8dd4aff308-Graham, Amy]
Subject: RE: Question from The Hill newspaper

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From: Wehrum, William L. [mailto:wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Question from The Hill newspaper

Here is an inquiry from the Hill. I have not responded and do not plan to.

From: Lydia Wheeler [mailto:lwheeler@thehill.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 12:23 PM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: Question from The Hill newspaper

Mr. Wehrum,

I understand you are arguing on behalf of NSSGA on the 26th before the DC Circuit Court of Appeals in North American's Building Trade v. OSHA.

The arguments follow your nomination hearing to be assistant administrator for air and radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency. Do you see this as a conflict of interest or improper? Why or why not?

--
Lydia Wheeler
Staff Writer, Federal Regulations
The Hill newspaper
lwheeler@thehill.com
cell: Ex. 6
@wheelerlydia

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 9/19/2017 5:29:59 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: FW: OSHA silica arguments next week

Here's another.

From: Alex Guillen [mailto:aguillen@politico.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 10:15 AM
To: Wehrum, William L.
Subject: OSHA silica arguments next week

Hi Bill,

I saw your Form 72 filing that you plan to argue next week in the legal challenge to OSHA's silica rule on behalf of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association and the Brick Industry Association. Can you confirm that you plan to argue on their behalf? Do you have any other statement on the arguments given your pending nomination to EPA?

Thank you,

Alex Guillén
Energy Reporter
POLITICO *Pro*
(o) Ex. 6 | (c) Ex. 6
aguillen@politico.com | @alexcguillen

Message

From: Michael Tadeo [TadeoM@api.org]
Sent: 6/22/2017 2:00:38 PM
To: Dewey, Amy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fc3a7e01b12f4aeba5d34b813df8112a-Dewey, Amy]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]
Subject: RE: Michael Tadeo

Sounds great to me.

From: Dewey, Amy [mailto:Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Palich, Christian; Michael Tadeo
Subject: RE: Michael Tadeo

OK, Michael's meeting with John is at 2:00 pm and then after I thought we could grab coffee with him . Mike is meeting with John alone, so I am thinking that about 2:30 pm we can get together. Amy

---

From: Palich, Christian
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>; Michael Tadeo <TadeoM@api.org>
Subject: RE: Michael Tadeo

Thanks Amy. I can do 2pm.

Always great to see Mr. Tadeo!

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 9:39 AM
To: Michael Tadeo <TadeoM@api.org>
Cc: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Michael Tadeo

Yes, and I have included Chris on this email, so maybe he can join us. Chris, Mike has a 2:00 pm with John on Friday can you join us for coffee after his meeting? Amy

---

From: Michael Tadeo [mailto:TadeoM@api.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 8:33 AM
To: Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Michael Tadeo

That would be great. Would you have time after?

From: Dewey, Amy [mailto:Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 8:01 AM
To: Michael Tadeo
Subject: Re: Michael Tadeo

Do want to have coffee before or after your meeting with John? Amy

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 21, 2017, at 5:51 PM, Michael Tadeo <TadeoM@api.org> wrote:

> Thank you Amy! See you on Friday
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> Please excuse any tyops
>
> On Jun 21, 2017, at 2:56 PM, Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> > Michael, John said 2:00 pm on Friday! Amy
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Dewey, Amy
> > **Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2017 2:46 PM
> > **To:** John Konkus (konkus.john@epa.gov) <konkus.john@epa.gov>
> > **Cc:** Michael Tadeo <TadeoM@api.org>
> > **Subject:** Michael Tadeo
> >
> > John,
> > Getting back to you from our conversation this morning. Michael Tadeo, API, is available to come in and meet with you this Friday (afternoon), June 23 or Monday (morning), June 26 at your convenience. Michael is cc'd on this memo. Amy

Message

From: Wehrum, William L. [wwehrum@hunton.com]
Sent: 10/9/2017 6:30:49 PM
To: Gunasekara, Mandy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=53d1a3caa8bb4ebab8a2d28ca59b6f45-Gunasekara,]; Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]
CC: Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Palich, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=330ad62e158d43af93fcbbece930d21a-Palich, Chr]; Dominguez, Alexander [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5ced433b4ef54171864ed98a36cb7a5f-Dominguez,]
Subject: RE: First Draft QFR Responses
Attachments: Wehrum All QFRs 10.04.2017-c.docx

I went back through my responses and corrected a bunch of typos. Corrected version is attached.

From: Gunasekara, Mandy [mailto:Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 09, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Ringel, Aaron
Cc: Wehrum, William L.; Lyons, Troy; Palich, Christian; Dominguez, Alexander
Subject: Re: First Draft QFR Responses

Great and Yes- I'll get to work on these.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 9, 2017, at 1:14 PM, Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov> wrote:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks,
Aaron

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 9, 2017, at 12:55 PM, Wehrum, William L. <wwehrum@hunton.com> wrote:

Attached is my first cut at QFR responses. There was progression in my thinking and approach as I worked my way through the questions. So, I will focus next on editing for consistency. Also, there are two issues for which I included place holders. **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

<image001.jpg>

Bill Wehrum
Partner
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Hunton & Williams LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

hunton.com

<Wehrum All QFRs 10.04.2017-c.docx>

Message

From: Palich, Christian [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=330AD62E158D43AF93FCBBECE930D21A-PALICH, CHR]
Sent: 6/18/2018 1:02:29 PM
To: Broome, Shannon S. [SBroome@hunton.com]; Frye, Tony (Robert) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=58c08abdfc1b4129a10456b78e6fc2e1-Frye, Rober]
Subject: RE: Recommendation letter for Chad McIntosh

Thanks Shannon!

Christian R. Palich
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
O: 202.564.4944
C: Ex. 6
E: Palich.Christian@epa.gov

From: Broome, Shannon S. [mailto:SBroome@hunton.com]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 12:11 AM
To: Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Frye, Tony (Robert) <frye.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Recommendation letter for Chad McIntosh

Messrs. Palich and Frye,

Attached is a recommendation letter for Chad McIntosh in advance of his confirmation hearing, which I understand is scheduled for this week. I will put this in the mail but it may not arrive in time so wanted to be sure you have it. Please confirm that you received this email and let me know if you have any questions. It is truly my honor to be able to recommend Chad for this position, and I do so wholeheartedly and without reservation based on years of working with him.

If there is any issue with the transmittal, please reach me on my cell Monday and Tuesday. I am flying on Monday and land about 3 Eastern.

Best Regards,

HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH

Shannon S. Broome
Partner/Office Managing Partner San Francisco
sbroome@HuntonAK.com
p
m Ex. 6
bio | vCard |

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Statement of William L. Wehrum
Nominated to Be Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the nominee for the position of Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I am honored that President Trump nominated me for this position.

As you may know, I previously was nominated in 2005 by President Bush for this position. Under Senator Inhofe's leadership, this Committee approved of my nomination at that time. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you again.

President Trump and Administrator Pruitt have set a clear agenda that I intend to implement if confirmed to this position. The President has issued Executive Orders that will eliminate needless and burdensome regulations, simplify and streamline compliance obligations, and strike a better balance between the twin goals of protecting human health and the environment and promoting the economic vitality of the Nation.

Administrator Pruitt emphasized three key objectives in his remarks to this Committee during his confirmation hearing. First, we are a Nation of laws. He explained that "EPA's role is to administer those laws faithfully" and that the Agency should avoid the temptation to "bootstrap its own powers and tools through rulemaking."

Second, Administrator Pruitt committed that the Agency would acknowledge, respect, and promote the critical role of the states in implementing Federal environmental laws and in protecting human health and the environment. "Cooperative federalism" is one of the cornerstones of the Clean Air Act. In the very first section of the Act, Congress declares that "air

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pollution control at its source is the primary responsibility of States and local governments." Administrator Pruitt's commitment to state involvement carries out Congress's stated intent.

Third, Administrator Pruitt emphasized the important role that the public plays in the regulatory process. He said that "it is critical to me that EPA also truly listen to the diverse views of the American people, and learn from them." He rightly stated that "[w]e can simultaneously pursue the mutual goals of environmental protection and economic growth," but cautioned that "that can only happen if EPA listens – listens to the views of all interested stakeholders."

These are the goals and objectives that have been established by our leadership. I concur in them and, if confirmed, will do all I can to achieve them.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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