



February 13, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As members of the BlueGreen Alliance, a coalition of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, we urge you to oppose the nomination of Scott Pruitt to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As Attorney General of Oklahoma, Scott Pruitt has sued the EPA numerous times over its efforts to provide Americans with clean air, clean water, and a safe and healthy environment. This includes a lawsuit challenging common-sense methane pollution safeguards. Plugging these wasteful methane leaks will not only protect communities, workers, and the environment, but will create and sustain thousands of good-paying jobs finding and fixing leaked natural gas that could be powering homes. He also has targeted clean water, suing the EPA over pollution standards for more than half of the nation's waterways, some of which feed into the drinking water supplies of 117 million citizens. Someone who has dedicated his career to going after our nation's bedrock environmental and public health laws - the very health protections that the EPA is mandated to protect - is not suited to run the EPA.

Scott Pruitt has also consistently ignored the well-established science showing that our climate is changing, claiming that it is "far from settled." Climate change is real and is threatening communities and livelihoods around the world. We have an opportunity to create and maintain good-quality, family-sustaining jobs in the clean economy. Policies that stimulate investment in clean energy and energy-efficient technologies will help spur innovation, investment, and manufacturing while ensuring that the U.S. does not fall behind in the development and commercialization of these technologies that are driving a growing share of economic growth around the world. America should be a leader in addressing climate change and domestically deploying the innovative clean technology of the future. Someone who recognizes neither the threat nor the opportunity of climate change is not suited to run the EPA.

Unfortunately, Scott Pruitt's shortcomings are not limited to environmental protection but extend to protecting workers' rights as well. As an Oklahoma State Senator, Pruitt voted for a

Constitutional Amendment to make Oklahoma a right-to-work state. Additionally, while employees of the state were being laid off and Oklahoma faced a \$1.3 billion budget deficit, Pruitt increased the Attorney General's office expenses by 40 percent and added nearly 60 employees to sue the administration over a variety of worker and environmental protections. While other agencies downsized, Pruitt moved one of his offices near his home into the luxurious Bank of America Tower, more than tripling its rent and increasing its space to more than 10,000 square feet. Someone who used his office in this manner when he should have been protecting working people and the environment is not suited to run the EPA.

We cannot afford to reverse the progress we've made in cutting pollution, reducing exposure to toxic chemicals in the workplace, addressing climate change, and in creating and sustaining quality jobs through cleaner energy and energy efficiency. Stopping that progress or backsliding—whether by backing out of the Paris agreement, weakening the implementation of the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act (LCSA) and other critical safeguards, or reversing policies that are driving manufacturing recovery, innovation, and job creation while reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions—would be a terrible decision for workers and the environment.

Allowing Scott Pruitt—a man who has spent his entire career demonizing attempts to protect our environment and the health and safety of working people—to become our next EPA Administrator would be a large step backward.

We need to fight together for an economy that works for all of us. We can safeguard workers and grow quality jobs. We can protect our environment by making our energy cleaner and our homes and businesses more energy efficient—all while creating the kinds of jobs Americans need to get ahead. We don't have to choose between safe workplaces or a clean environment and good jobs. We can and must have both.

We urge you to vote against the confirmation of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator.

Sincerely,

United Steelworkers
Sierra Club
Natural Resources Defense Council
Service Employees International Union
Environmental Defense Action Fund
Union of Concerned Scientists
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
National Wildlife Federation