

## **CONFIRMING ANDREW WHEELER AS EPA ADMINISTRATOR**

Passed: 52-47

### **SUMMARY:**

The Senate confirmed Deputy EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, former coal-industry lobbyist, as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. (*February 28, 2019, Roll Call No. 33*)

### **BACKGROUND:**

Andrew Wheeler served as a staff director and chief counsel for the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works from 1995 to 2009. During his time in the US Senate, he was known for his efforts to reduce government regulations on industries that generate greenhouse gases. As a senior aide to Senator Jim Inhofe (*R-Okla.*), Wheeler supported Senator Inhofe's denial of climate change. After leaving the US Senate, Wheeler worked as an energy and natural resources lobbyist, combating the Obama administration's climate regulations between 2009 and 2017. Wheeler lobbied the Department of the Interior to open the Bears Ears National Monument to uranium mining. He is also the former vice president of the Washington Coal Club, which works to support pro-coal and pro-oil and gas policies. Prior to becoming the EPA Administrator, Wheeler was appointed to the EPA as its Deputy Administrator.

### **OUTCOME:**

On February 28, 2019, the Senate confirmed Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler's nomination as EPA Administrator. "No" was the pro-conservation vote.