

CONFIRMING SCOTT PRUITT AS EPA ADMINISTRATOR

Passed: 52-46

SUMMARY:

The Senate confirmed Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a climate-change denier, as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. (*February 17, 2017, Roll Call No. 71*)

BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for protecting air, water and wildlife for all of us. EPA administrators typically understand and value the importance of the agency's mission of protecting the public's health. Scott Pruitt served as an Oklahoma state senator from 1998 to 2006, was elected as the attorney general of Oklahoma in November of 2010 and served two terms as president of the Republican Attorneys General Association. He is a known anti-EPA advocate and climate-change denier and has fought against critical EPA rules such as the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule and the Clean Power Plan (CPP).

Pruitt called the CPP unlawful and overreaching and said that it would greatly increase the price of electricity for American consumers by closing coal-fired power plants. Funded by fossil fuel industries since 2002, Pruitt sent letters drafted by energy lobbyists to the EPA, Department of the Interior and even President Obama opposing EPA regulations and rules, including methane regulations. He also targeted agencies within the Obama administration, claiming certain decisions were rooted in an anti-fossil fuel agenda.

The Senate confirmed the nomination of Pruitt as administrator of the EPA, the same agency he has spent years fighting. He advanced his career with the help of the coal and oil industries and has already shown he does not believe in the EPA's mission. His administration of the EPA is expected to be disastrous for the rules and decisions that keep our public healthy and safe.

OUTCOME:

On February 17, 2017, the Senate confirmed Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's nomination as EPA Administrator. "No" was the pro-conservation vote.