

January 19, 2017

Senator Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

As organizations representing more than 75,000 members in Maine, we write to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt for Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We urge you to vote against his confirmation and to make your position known soon when it can influence the debate about this nominee.

Maine needs an EPA Administrator who will work to protect the clean air and clean water that are so vital to our economy, health, and quality of life. Mr. Pruitt, however, is hostile toward EPA's mission and is determined to weaken the nation's most important environmental laws.

Mr. Pruitt has a clear record of fighting to block the EPA from enacting vital safeguards for the nation's clean air and clean water. He has sued the EPA to block protections for public health, including standards for reducing soot and smog pollution that crosses interstate lines and protections against emissions of mercury, arsenic, and other toxic pollutants from power plants.

Maine policymakers have long recognized that upwind polluters threaten the lives of Maine people, especially children and the elderly, and those with asthma and respiratory difficulties. That's why Maine's elected officials, including you, have shown important, consistent, and deeply appreciated leadership in defending EPA's authority to reduce pollutants. As Oklahoma's Attorney General, Mr. Pruitt has pursued the opposite agenda. While Maine has worked to restrict ozone pollution, Mr. Pruitt has sued EPA to block implementation of the Ozone Rule.

Mr. Pruitt's denial of the science of climate change is deeply troubling, and should be disqualifying for the position of EPA Administrator. Mr. Pruitt falsely claims that the climate debate "is far from settled" and that "scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming and its connections to the actions of mankind." But you know as well as any that climate change is happening now, humans are responsible, and Maine is at risk. Already, the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99 percent of the world's large bodies of salt water. Scientists are as close to being unanimous about these facts as can be expected on any issue. Further denial is simply a cover for inaction.

Several years ago, at a commencement address at Unity College, you said "climate change is the most significant environmental challenge facing our country and our planet." We strongly agree and believe that whoever is confirmed as the new EPA Administrator should hold this view. Mr. Pruitt does not.

If confirmed, Mr. Pruitt seems intent on undermining EPA's authorities, cutting federal funds available to invest in desperately-needed clean water infrastructure at the state level, and disrupting our national response to climate change. Such actions would increase pollution threats to Maine people and our economy, and represent a significant set-back to global efforts to reduce climate changing pollution.

Mr. Pruitt could put at risk much of the environmental progress that has been achieved through bipartisan efforts over the past several decades. Maine's air and water quality have improved significantly thanks to the EPA's implementation of environmental laws. We appreciate the role you have played in working to protect Maine's environment and addressing the threat of climate change. That's why we urge you to oppose Scott Pruitt's confirmation for EPA Administrator.

Respectfully,

Acadia Center  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Elliotsville Plantation, Inc.  
Environment Maine  
Environmental Health Strategy Center  
Friends of Casco Bay/Casco Baykeeper  
Friends of Merymeeting Bay  
Friends of Penobscot Bay  
Lakes Environmental Association  
Maine Audubon  
Maine Clammers Association  
Maine Conservation Voters  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Maine People's Alliance  
Maine Public Health Association  
Maine Rivers  
Maine Small Business Coalition  
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network  
Medomak Valley Land Trust  
Midcoast Conservancy  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine  
Prevent Harm  
Protect South Portland  
Sierra Club Maine  
Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative  
The Wilderness Society Maine  
Toxics Action Center  
Upstream  
350 Maine

**The following individuals also signed the letter to Senator Collins. Affiliations are for identification purposes only. Individuals are representing themselves and not any organization.**

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