

Organizations Urge Maine Senators to Oppose Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

Remarks by

Pete Didisheim, Advocacy Director
Natural Resources Council of Maine
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We are here today to urge Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King to vote against the confirmation of Donald Trump's nominee for the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt. And we urge them to announce their opposition 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 is not such a person. There is virtually nothing in his record showing an interest in protecting the environment. He is hostile toward EPA's mission and has relentlessly worked with the fossil fuel industry to prevent the EPA from doing its job.

Out of 700 news releases issued during his time as the Oklahoma Attorney General, not one was about enforcing an environmental law. More than 50 promoted his efforts to sue the EPA.

Mr. Pruitt has sued the EPA 14 times to disrupt their work and block safeguards for public health, including EPA's work to reduce air pollution that crosses interstate lines and the mercury and arsenic pollution that contaminate Maine waters and wildlife.

This is a big deal for Maine. Much of the air pollution that threatens Maine children, the elderly, and those with asthma comes here from power plants located upwind. Maine policymakers – including Senators King and Collins – have helped defend EPA's authority to reduce pollutants from these plants. But Mr. Pruitt has pursued the opposite agenda.

While Maine has been working to restrict ozone pollution, Mr. Pruitt was suing 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.

Senator Collins and Senator King both know that climate change is happening now, that fossil fuel emissions are responsible, and that Maine is at risk. Top national scientists just announced that 2016 was the third straight hottest year on record. The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99 percent of the world's large bodies of salt water. We need action to address climate change, with leadership from an EPA Administrator who understands and respects what science is telling us. Mr. Pruitt is not that person.

Mr. Pruitt received more than \$300,000 in campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry. All the evidence shows that Mr. Pruitt would work for their interests, not the interests of Maine people and all Americans.

That's why 30 Maine organizations, representing 75,000 members in Maine, urge our U.S. Senators to vote against the confirmation of Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator.