

Trump's Deregulation Foxes

What you need to know

The following answers are based on well researched information and not “alternative facts”. These fact sheets are provided by the Bluegrass Activist Alliance Research Committee.

Our Values: Bluegrass Activist Alliance believes that government has a responsibility to protect ordinary citizens from the excesses of uncontrolled capitalism. One way to do this is through an open and fair regulation process.

EPA administrator Scott Pruitt has put a soundproof booth in his office. Paid for with \$24,570 in tax payer money, it allows Pruitt to conduct secret communications about issues of great importance to the health and safety of citizens who breathe the air and drink the water. In addition, Pruitt has spent thousands checking for listening devices, barred cell phones or any other recording devices from staff meetings and uses emails as seldom as possible.

Q. Why all the secrecy?

A. Before being nominated by Trump to be the nation's premier guardian of environment related public health, Pruitt took very large campaign contributions from fossil fuel industries. Then, as Attorney General of Oklahoma he continually sued the EPA trying to reduce or eliminate regulations designed to protect citizens from air, water and soil pollution. The secrecy allows Pruitt to confer with those in the corporate world about cutting the EPA's regulatory powers (and its ability to protect public health) away from public scrutiny.

Q. Has Trump made other questionable nominations?

A. Yes. In addition to Pruitt, Trump has made dozens of other “fox guarding the hen house” nominations. One standout is Michael Dourson, nominated by Trump to be the EPA's top chemical safety officer. For years, Dourson, who recently was forced to withdraw his name from consideration, conducted research paid for by international chemical companies in which he said he found nearly all EPA regulated chemicals to be safe, despite the fact that large numbers of independent scientists found these same chemicals to be dangerous. Another, Rick Perry, an avowed climate change skeptic, is now Secretary of Energy. In addition to bringing research on climate change to a near halt, Perry has no background whatsoever in atomic energy even though the Department he now heads oversees the storage and use of nuclear materials. (The two previous Secretaries of Energy were nuclear physicists.)

Q. Why does this matter?

A. Most older Americans remember smog covered cities, burning rivers and massive wildlife die offs caused by pollution. Even now, in parts of the country where environmental regulations are lax, rates of cancer, heart disease and asthma are significantly higher than in more protected parts of our nation. Since the creation of the EPA in the 1970s, our water and air are significantly cleaner and chemical pollution is greatly reduced. By putting regulated industries in charge of their own regulation, as Trump has done over and over, we risk going back to the days when public health

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was dramatically compromised by pollution. In addition, we stand to lose billions of dollars from cleaning up environmental disasters made worse by climate change. The Office of Management and Budget estimates we spent almost \$350 billion dollars dealing with wildfires and killer storms in the past decade. This estimate was made before the epic wildfires and hurricanes in the second half of 2017.

Q. Has representative Barr supported the dismantling of regulations that protect our health and safety?

A. He has indeed. Barr, who receives large contributions from the coal industry, voted to dismantle the Clean Power Plan which provided protection from air and water pollution caused by coal burning power plants. He also voted to roll back the Clean Streams Act which barred industries from dumping pollutants into our waters. The League of Conservation voters gives Barr a 0% score for voting to protect a clean environment.

For a more in-depth article on this problem, go to the Bluegrass Activist Alliance Research page at <http://www.bluegrassactivistalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/EPA-Update-Nov.-2017.pdf>