

Statement of Gretchen Dahlkemper
National Field Director for Moms Clean Air Force

January 24, 2017

As a Pennsylvania mother I am honored to speak today on behalf of Moms Clean Air Force's one million members across the United States. Moms Clean Air Force is a 5-year old community of moms – and dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles – dedicated to protecting our children from air pollution, toxic chemicals and the urgent crisis of our changing climate.

The nomination of Scott Pruitt to head EPA is unprecedented. Whether you are a Republican or Democrat it is a travesty because Mr. Pruitt has vigorously used his office to derail and obstruct clean air safeguards that are broadly supported by Americans in red and blue states alike. This nomination threatens our children and families.

As moms we think there are some basic criteria that any EPA chief should meet:

- Putting the health of our families and the safety of our communities before the profits of the biggest polluters
- Being led by science – and more specifically, scientific consensus
- Honoring our great American traditions of the right to breathe clean air and drink clean water

Scott Pruitt fails to meet any of these basic criteria for EPA Administrator.

Mr. Pruitt has used his office to attack vital safeguards for our children's health.

As Oklahoma's top legal officer, Pruitt has been against every single clean air protection we have gained. He has sued to stop vital safeguards that protect us from mercury, arsenic, acid gases and hazardous air pollution. These protections are supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association and the American Public Health Association.

Mr. Pruitt has used his office to attack protections against soot and smog pollution.

Pruitt is against standards to reduce soot and smog that cross state lines and pollute our air. He is against standards that improve air quality in our national parks. In 2014 Pruitt led an "unprecedented, secret alliance" with large energy companies to attack clean air rules. He has challenged EPA's science-based analysis of oil & gas pollution levels in our communities.

Pruitt lies about science

When it comes to climate science, Mr. Pruitt exhibits a profound disregard for the truth. He is against plans to cut the carbon and methane pollution that is dangerously altering our atmosphere while calling for further debate on climate science when 97% of scientists agree that human activity is driving climate change. Not a climate change denier, Mr. Pruitt is a climate liar.

Mr. Pruitt destroys solutions rather than solving problems.

During last week's hearing Mr. Pruitt did not provide an answer to what he has done to protect Oklahoma's children. Pruitt has never, not once, advanced a single solution in Oklahoma to any of the problems that the Clean Air Act must, by law, address. No solutions to protect pregnant women, unborn babies and young children from mercury; no solutions to protecting those with asthma from soot and smog pollution; no solutions to the wasted methane escaping from oil & gas operations; no solutions to cut climate pollution that is dangerously throwing our climate off balance. Instead of solving problems Scott Pruitt has instead focused his energy on leading lawsuits to undo these public health & environmental protections at the bidding of the corporate polluters that have financed his campaigns.

The agency charged with enforcing our environmental laws should be led by someone who is committed to its missions and free from conflicts.

The Clean Air Act is a vital demonstration that some things must transcend partisan politics – the protection of clean air and clean water chief among them.

Americans did not vote for more air pollution and more water pollution – and under Scott Pruitt our nonpartisan American values will be at risk.