

Scott Pruitt wants to take the EPA 'back to basics'

**BASICALLY BACKWARD**

Candidate Donald Trump vowed repeatedly to “get rid of the [Environmental Protection Agency] in almost every form.”

A year into his administration, it is clear that President Trump is determined to make good on that campaign promise.

While President Trump’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says it is moving “[Back to Basics](#),” it is, in reality, moving our country “[Basically Backward](#).”



From nominating extremists to some of the highest posts in our government to willfully ignoring sound science and stripping the protections that keep millions of Americans safe, this administration has spent its first year reversing the progress our country – through both Democratic and Republican administrations – has made over decades.

## Filling the Swamp

From industry-sponsored advisors, to scientists-for-hire, to activist attorneys, many of the Trump Administration's top picks to lead our nation's environmental policy efforts have dedicated their careers to weakening or dismantling rules put in place to protect America's air, water, land and citizens.



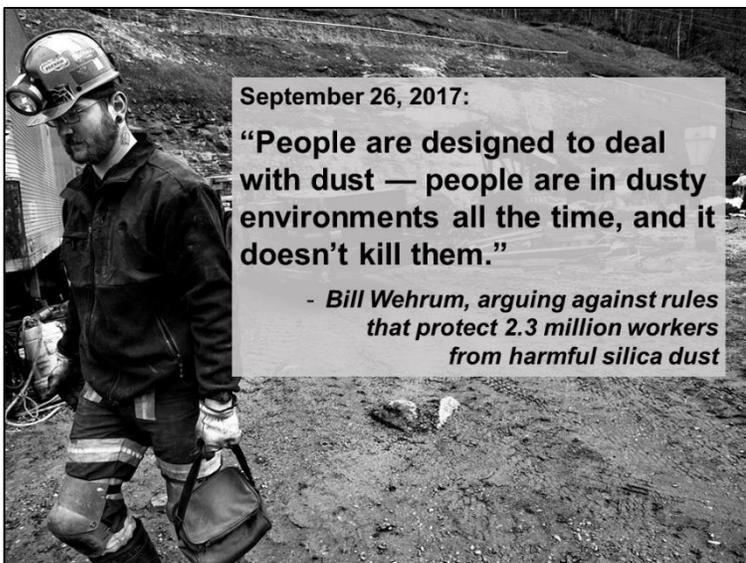
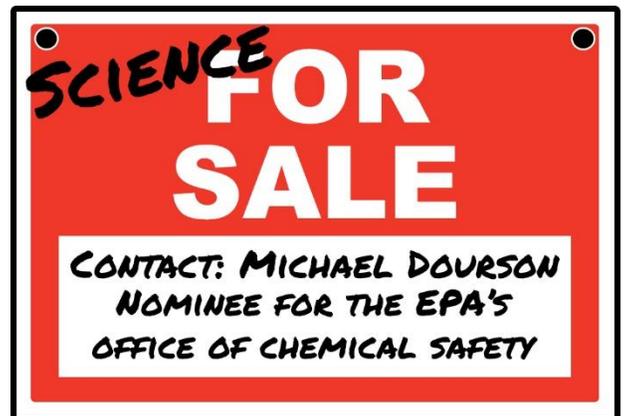
### **Scott Pruitt, EPA Administrator**

As Oklahoma Attorney General, Scott Pruitt shut down his office's environmental protection unit and [sued EPA](#) more than a dozen times to overturn the clean air and water rules he is now charged with implementing and enforcing. When asked during the confirmation process to name any EPA regulation he supports, he could not name a single one.

Nearly a year into his tenure as Administrator, it should come as no surprise that Pruitt [does not believe](#) that [the mission of the EPA is to protect the environment](#).

### **Dr. Michael Dourson, former nominee to lead the EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention**

Dourson ran a [science-for-hire](#) operation that promoted safety standards for chemicals, including those with [links to various cancers](#), that were tens, hundreds, even thousands of times less protective than EPA's own standards. Dr. Dourson ultimately [withdrew](#) his nomination after it was clear that he was too extreme [even for Senate Republicans](#).



### **William Wehrum, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation**

While previously serving at EPA during the Bush Administration, Wehrum helped craft air regulations that were [defeated in court](#) 27 times because the courts found that they failed to follow the law or sufficiently protect public health. Since leaving EPA in 2009, Wehrum represented industry clients 31 times in lawsuits *against* EPA in efforts to undo clean air, environmental and worker protections.

## Kathleen Hartnett White, nominee to lead the Council on Environmental Quality

Throughout her career, Ms. White has consistently made [radical](#) and factually inaccurate statements, such as crediting fossil fuels for the [end of slavery](#), asserting that [ozone](#) is not harmful “unless you put your mouth over the tailpipe of a car for eight hours” and comparing those who believe in climate change to [pagans](#) or [communists](#). As head of the Texas Council on Environmental Quality, Ms. White [misrepresented](#) radiation levels in Texas water systems to avoid reporting and acting to reduce a known carcinogen found at levels that violated federal limits in 35 water systems.



**Trump’s Top Environmental Nominee Denies Climate Change, Promotes “Huge Social Benefit” Of More Carbon Dioxide**

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## Starving the EPA

The Trump Administration’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposed cutting EPA’s budget [by over 30 percent](#) – the largest proposed cut to a federal agency. Since nearly 44 percent of EPA funding is passed on to state and local governments, slashing EPA’s budget means taking funding from local communities in need.

Program	President Trump’s Proposed FY 2018 Budget
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<b>\$5.7 billion (31% cut)</b>
EPA State & Tribal Grants	<b>\$597 million (44% cut)</b>
Chesapeake Bay	<b>Eliminated</b>
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	<b>Eliminated</b>
EPA Enforcement Activities	<b>\$419 million (24% cut)</b>
Superfund Program	<b>\$762 million (30% cut)</b>
EPA Staff	<b>Cutting 3,200 (or 1 in 5) employees</b>
EPA Climate Change Programs	<b>Eliminated</b>
EPA Research and Development	<b>\$277 million (46% cut)</b>

While EPA’s budget is under assault, EPA leadership *has* found the funds for:

- A \$25,000 soundproof [phone booth](#) in the Administrator’s personal office
- [Dozens of domestic trips](#) for EPA leaders
- At least four foreign trips, including Administrator Pruitt’s recent 4-day, \$40,000 trip to [Morocco](#) to discuss natural gas exports, [an issue](#) that does not even fall within EPA’s jurisdiction

## Erasing Clean Air, Clean Water and Chemical Safety Protections

Under the Trump Administration, EPA has undermined the fundamental clean air, clean water and environmental protections that have been the bedrock of the agency's work for nearly 50 years. A few particularly egregious examples include:

— Proposing to repeal the **Clean Power Plan**, the Obama-era rule designed to cut carbon emissions from power plants by 32 percent and deliver climate and health benefits of up to \$90 billion.

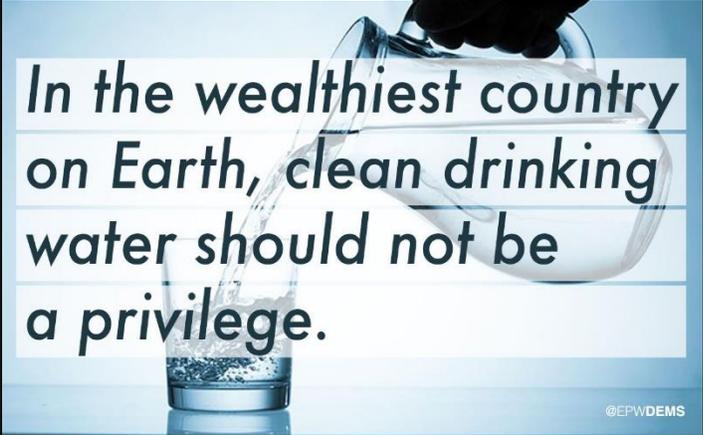


Each year, the Clean Power Plan would prevent:

- ✓ 90,000 asthma attacks for kids,
- ✓ 1,700 heart attacks and
- ✓ 3,600 premature deaths.

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— Proposing to eliminate the **Clean Water Rule** – a rule designed to protect the drinking water of 117 million Americans from pollution and contamination



In the wealthiest country on Earth, clean drinking water should not be a privilege.

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— **Reversing** a ban on the remaining uses of **chlorpyrifos** – a pesticide, and known neurotoxin, used on certain food crops and non-agricultural sites, such as golf courses.



**FOR AMERICAN LEADERSHIP**  
Support the **Paris Agreement.**

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— Pulling the United States out of the historic **Paris Agreement** – a pledge among every other country in the world to reduce emissions and limit global temperature rise.

## Denying science and silencing scientists

Since the agency's creation in 1970, under Republican President Richard Nixon, the EPA has set common sense standards based on extensive scientific research. President Trump's EPA is undermining that long, nonpartisan tradition by:

— [Removing qualified scientists](#) from EPA's 23 independent scientific advisory committees.

— Replacing scientists with [industry-sponsored](#) advisors with questionable qualifications, [potential conflicts of interests](#) and direct ties to the industries that EPA is charged with regulating.

— Instituting a [new policy](#) that subjects hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of competitive grants to review by political appointees, appearing to use purely [political considerations](#) when awarding merit-based grants to state and local communities.

