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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
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January 31, 2017

Senator Tom Carper  
Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Carper:

Thank you for your January 30<sup>th</sup> letter requesting that the Committee postpone the business meeting to consider the nomination of Attorney General Scott Pruitt to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Committee's review of Attorney General Pruitt's nomination has been unparalleled in its scrutiny, thoroughness, and respect for minority rights. Attorney General Pruitt has answered more questions than any past EPA Administrator nominee. He has been comprehensively vetted and has demonstrated his qualifications to lead the EPA.

Committee members have had an unprecedented opportunity to question Attorney General Pruitt. Committee members have examined Attorney General Pruitt over four rounds of questions, which exceeded the Committee's previous record of three rounds of questions for the EPA Administrator nominee established in 2001. This also exceeded the Committee's more recent standard of two rounds of questions for EPA Administrator nominees in 2003, 2005, 2009, and 2013.

Attorney General Pruitt has answered a total of more than 1,200 questions. This total includes 1,078 questions for the record and at least 206 questions during the hearing. He has answered over 1,000 more questions than nominees for EPA Administrator from the incoming Obama, Bush, and Clinton Administrations.

In 2013, you made a prescient prediction during the Committee's first business meeting to consider the nomination of Gina McCarthy to be EPA Administrator. You said:

"Some day there will be a Republican President. Some day the Republicans are going to be in the majority in the Senate. And that Republican President is going to have his or her Cabinet in place. I think you could nominate, a governor or the President nominates good people, honest people, hard-working people, they ought to get at least a vote. They ought to get a vote, and I think they ought to get our support."

EPA Administrator nominees for the incoming Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations all received confirmation hearings before the inauguration. They were all confirmed by the full Senate by the end of January. While we cannot ensure that Attorney General Pruitt is in place at the EPA by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, we should endeavor to report him from our Committee by that date.

Sincerely,



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John Barrasso, M.D.  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate