

MOMS  
*clean air*  
FORCE

FIGHTING FOR  
OUR KIDS' HEALTH



# Pruitt's Playbook

The Trump Administration's  
Assault on the  
Environmental Protection Agency

## Assault on EPA: The Strategy

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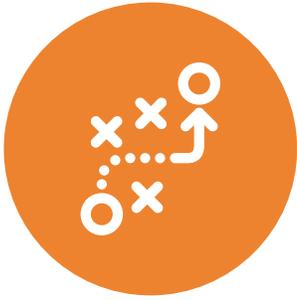
### Scott Pruitt's strategy puts polluters first



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt is threatening our children by slashing the EPA's budget, hiring polluters who will protect their industries, rolling back vital public health safeguards, and putting politics over science.

His schedule is filled with meetings with industry insiders, and his decisions have shown a callous disregard for children's health. Pruitt's agenda threatens to move us backward to a dirtier and more dangerous era with higher cancer rates and more asthma attacks, heart disease, and strokes.

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# Assault on EPA: The Plays

## Slashing the EPA's budget

Pruitt and the Trump Administration are championing 30 percent cuts that would hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s. If enacted, these cuts would reverse decades of progress cleaning up pollution, including toxic substances, that foul our drinking water, air and soil.

On October 10, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt released a proposed rule to revoke America's Clean Power Plan (CPP), which limits carbon pollution from power plants, without even offering a replacement. This despite the EPA's own estimates that the CPP can prevent up to 90,000 childhood asthma attacks and thousands of deaths each year. As the cost of climate change becomes more vivid, decisions like this leave a dangerous burden for our children and grandchildren to bear.

## Hiring polluters who will protect their industries

Pruitt is bringing industry insiders and lobbyists into EPA leadership positions to oversee the polluting industries they came from. The EPA is increasingly dominated by people who have spent decades fighting to block environmental safeguards, undermining scientific findings on environmental threats, and organizing contributions to pressure lawmakers.

## Rolling back environmental safeguards

Pruitt is seeking to roll back and delay environmental safeguards that protect our public health and air, water and soil. The result will be more hazardous waste like mercury, methane, arsenic, lead and feces in our water, air and soil — and more of the cancers, diseases and other illnesses that follow.

## Putting politics over science

Under Pruitt, the EPA has been jettisoning and suppressing scientific and public health expertise. It has sought to create bogus debates over established climate science. It has even purged its website of scientific data and reports.

# Assault on EPA: Slashing the Budget

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**30%  
cut**

Pruitt and the Trump Administration are championing 30 percent cuts that would hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s. If enacted, these budget cuts would reverse decades of progress cleaning up pollution, including toxic substances, that foul our drinking water, air and soil.

**The EPA would face the largest cut of any federal agency,** including thousands of EPA scientists, engineers and other experts who help states prevent and clean up waste and pollution.

## **Cutting an agency budget already at historic lows.**

The EPA's budget has been frequently dropping for 13 years, even as the U.S. population has increased, evolving industries have created new pollution challenges, and cancer rates are rising.

## **Cuts to programs that children and families depend on**

- Cleaning up runoff pollution that would otherwise go into drinking water
- Fixing underground tanks that leak toxins into the soil and water
- Monitoring pollution to alert communities to “Code Red” unsafe air days
- Investigating and prosecuting polluters and making them pay for clean ups
- Funding Justice Department enforcement of Superfund hazardous waste violations

These cuts will put our children's health at risk.

## **Putting our health at risk**

- More toxic runoff in our drinking water; more feces and bacteria at beaches, lakes and streams
- More asthma attacks, especially among children
- More heart attacks among seniors
- Fewer cleanups of toxic waste sites
- More exposure to lead and cancer-causing radon gas

# Assault on EPA: Pruitt's targets

Examples of Trump Administration budget cuts to EPA programs		
<b>AIR</b>		
Indoor Radon Grant Program	Reduces radon in homes, schools and buildings	<b>Eliminated</b>
Air Pollution Grants	Reduces "Code Red" and "Code Orange" days	<b>Cut 30%</b>
<b>WATER</b>		
Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program	Fights runoff pollution from roads, parking lots and agricultural lands	<b>Eliminated</b>
Water Pollution Control Grants	Supports water quality improvement and clean up	<b>Cut 30%</b>
BEACH Act Grants for Great Lakes and ocean coastal communities	Monitors fecal, algal and other beach pollution	<b>Eliminated</b>
Public Water System Supervision	Helps ensure safe drinking water	<b>Cut 30%</b>
<b>SOIL</b>		
Superfund	Supports toxic and radioactive waste cleanup of most polluted sites	<b>Cut 30%</b>
Superfund Enforcement	Tracks down polluters + makes them pay	<b>Cut 37%</b>
Superfund Emergency Response Funds	Responds to urgent threats	<b>Cut 18%</b>
Brownfield Grants	Supports cleanup and redevelopment of polluted sites	<b>Cut 30%</b>
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks grants Trust Fund monies to address Backlog of Hazardous Tanks	Protects water and soil from tanks leaking chemicals	<b>Cut 48%</b>
Lead Paint Professional Certification	Helps with lead abatement, risk assessment and inspections	<b>Eliminated</b>

Data from:  
United States Environmental  
Protection Agency

FISCAL YEAR 2018 Justification  
of Appropriation Estimates f  
or the Committee on  
Appropriations

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/fy-2018-congressional-justification.pdf>

[www.usaspending.gov](http://www.usaspending.gov)

# Assault on EPA: Pruitt's targets

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<b>Key cuts to water programs in many states, including Florida, Great Lakes States, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia</b>	
Chesapeake Bay Program – MD, PA, VA	<b>Eliminated</b>
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	<b>Eliminated</b>
Gulf of Mexico	<b>Eliminated</b>
Lake Champlain	<b>Eliminated</b>
Lake Pontchartrain	<b>Eliminated</b>
Long Island Sound	<b>Eliminated</b>
National Estuary Program — FL — Tampa Bay — Sarasota Bay — Charlotte Harbor — Indian River Lagoon	<b>Eliminated</b>
Puget Sound	<b>Eliminated</b>
San Francisco Bay	<b>Eliminated</b>
South Florida Geographic Initiative Everglades — Keys	<b>Eliminated</b>
South New England Estuaries	<b>Eliminated</b>

# Assault on EPA: Crippling Natural Disaster Efforts

<b>Pruitt's budget cuts would cripple EPA efforts to help with natural disasters</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Trump's Budget</b>
<b>Assess Risks, Deal with Contamination &amp; Support Cleanups</b>		
EPA Homeland Security Efforts	Assesses public health risks posed by major infrastructure and facilities — in coordination with Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and state authorities.	<b>Almost 40% Cut</b>
Chemical Facility Safety: State and Local Prevention and Preparedness	Helps prevent, prepare and respond to catastrophic accidental chemical releases at industrial facilities (including petroleum facilities).	<b>35% Cut</b>
Community Right-to-Know, Toxics Release Inventory	Provides information about pollutants and toxic substances being released into air, water and soil. Affects neighborhoods near approximately 20,000 industrial and federal facilities around the country.	<b>Nearly 40% Cut</b>
Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Emergency	EPA is lead responder for cleanup of inland zone spills (pipelines, trucks, railcars, and other transportation systems). EPA provides technical assistance/support to the U.S. Coast Guard for coastal and maritime oil spills.	<b>15% cut</b>
<b>Train &amp; Support Local Emergency Responders</b>		
Training & Technical Support	EPA trains and provides technical assistance to respond to chemical and oil incidents for emergency responders.	<b>Scaled back significantly</b>
<b>Protect Low-Income Communities from Environmental Hazards</b>		
Environmental Justice	Ensures low income communities have equal protection from environmental and health hazards.	<b>Eliminated</b>



# Assault on EPA: Hiring polluters who will protect their industries

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## **William Wehrum**

### **Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation**

- The Assistant Administrator for EPA's Air Office is our nation's front-line official for protecting Americans from dangerous air and climate pollution.
- Wehrum has opposed clean air and climate protections in at least 27 lawsuits since 2007.
- A long-time industry lawyer and corporate lobbyist, he recently argued in court that silicosis wasn't a problem, explaining that "people are designed to deal with dust."
- During his confirmation hearing, he told senators that he was "not familiar" with the scientific data showing the connection between carbon pollution and climate change.



## **Nancy Beck**

### **Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety**

- Currently the top political appointee in EPA office overseeing chemical and pesticide safety.
- Came to EPA from a job as a top official for a chemical lobbying group working for chemical companies on issues now under her purview at EPA.
- Before that, stymied EPA chemical safety evaluations as a George W. Bush OMB employee. A House Science and Technology Committee report called her input, "very disturbing... the whole point of the exercise was to delay."



## **Erik Baptist**

### **Senior Deputy General Counsel**

- Key to Pruitt's efforts to roll back environmental protections in court.
- Longtime attorney for the American Petroleum Institute.



## **Troy Lyons**

### **Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations**

- EPA's liaison to Congress, state and local governments.
- Lobbyist against EPA rules for oil companies including Hess and BP.



# Assault on EPA: Hiring polluters who will protect their industries

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## Cathy Stepp

### Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 7



- Helps oversee EPA operations in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.
- As Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources chief, changed agency from environmental regulator into a rubber stamp for polluting businesses.
- Slashed pollution fines to 30-year low while dissolving science bureau and firing staff.
- Discounted scientific evidence.
- Nonpartisan auditors concluded that Stepp's department failed to follow its own enforcement policies against water polluters more than 94 percent of the time between 2005 and 2015.
- Prevented officials from testifying before the state legislature on bills that would affect business.

## Trey Glenn

### Region 4 Administrator



- Oversees EPA operations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- Reassigned as director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management amid ethics investigation over pay-for-play politics; became industry lobbyist.
- The Alabama Ethics Commissions unanimously found that Glenn violated ethics laws by accepting flights to Disney World and HiltonHead from a PR firm representing a contractor doing work for the Department.
- As Alabama Office of Water Resources director, oversaw dramatic cuts to pollution enforcement.

## John Konkus

### Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs



- Although his job is to be an EPA spokesman, Konkus previews EPA scientific grants and awards for political correctness.
- Trump campaign aide and Republican political operative with no environmental policy experience.
- Calls climate change “the double C-word” and vetoes grants accordingly.
- He has canceled more than \$2 million in grants.

# Assault on EPA: Rolling Back Environmental Safeguards

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Since Pruitt became EPA Administrator he has been seeking to roll back and delay environmental safeguards that protect Americans' health and environment from dangerous pollutions and other health hazards in water, air and soil. The Administrator has looked to his own team of industry insiders and polluter lobbyists to try to enact these rollbacks, including the following:



## Clean Cars Standards

Reduce climate pollution and save consumers money  
March 15, 2017: Plan to repeal standards announced

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## Methane Reporting Requirement

Track industrial methane emissions  
March 2, 2017: Withdrawn by EPA

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## Chemical Disaster Rule

Improve risk management planning at facilities that use dangerous chemicals  
March 16, 2017: Rule suspended

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## Chemical Safety Board

Investigates industrial chemical accidents  
March 16, 2017: Trump/Pruitt budget proposed eliminating Board

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## Mercury and Air Toxics Standards

Limit mercury and other toxic emissions from power plants  
April 18, 2017: EPA delayed court defense as it reconsiders rule

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## Smog Standard

Reduces amount of smog allowed in air.  
October 1, 2017: EPA did not meet deadline to announce regions required to clean up smog

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## Clean Power Plan

Addresses carbon pollution from power plants; would avoid up to 3,600 premature deaths per year  
October 9, 2017: Rollback proposed

# Assault on EPA: Putting Politics Over Science

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**Censoring climate change:** Under Pruitt, the EPA has been deleting references to climate change across its website, and even took down a two-decade-old section featuring scientific explanations of climate change. Pruitt deleted all references to climate change in the EPA's new strategic plan. The agency may even remove climate change-related exhibits from its museum.

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**Science optional:** Pruitt dismissed numerous scientists from EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors. A Trump campaign political operative with little environmental policy experience who has been installed in the EPA Public Affairs office vets grant applications and eliminates references to climate (what he calls “the double C-word”) from solicitations.

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**Cooking the books:** Pruitt's EPA has used discredited methods to hide the health benefits of reducing dangerous power plant pollutants particulate matter — or soot. Its political appointees ordered career scientists to erase the economic benefits to wetlands of a regulation protecting waterways. Pruitt has even raised the idea of convening a team of researchers to challenge the well-established scientific consensus that CO<sub>2</sub> and other fossil fuel emissions are the primary drivers of climate change.

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**Nothing to hide?** EPA employees have to be escorted onto the floor where Pruitt's office is located. They are sometimes told not to take notes when they meet with him. Pruitt kept a secret calendar until it was disclosed under outside pressure — revealing how his schedule is tilted towards industry insiders whose requests frequently have been granted.

# The Pruitt playbook can be hazardous to our health

EPA's budget and policies affect how exposed our bodies are to pollution and hazardous waste. And Pruitt's efforts to roll back environmental safeguards could worsen threats that are very real: For example, coal ash from power plant waste pits contains arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium and other cancer-causing agents. Toxic discharge from power plants forms toxic heavy metals in waterways like arsenic and mercury.

