

# ANDREW WHEELER NOMINATION TO RUN EPA IS DANGEROUS

## EPA ACTING ADMINISTRATOR WHEELER'S TOXIC CHEMICAL AGENDA

Moms across the country fought hard to win the passage, in 2016, of the Lautenberg Chemicals Safety for the 21st Century Act. This law had major bipartisan support. Yet Wheeler is fighting hard to cripple this law—to the benefit of the chemical industry.

Here are some of the worst examples of Wheeler's Toxic Chemical Agenda:



### TETRACHLOROETHYLENE (PERCHLOROETHYLENE, "PERC")

Did you know that every time you take clothes home from the dry cleaners, you are probably exposing yourself and your family to a carcinogen? PERC is used in 70% of dry cleaning products. It is also used in degreasers, spot removers, wood cleaners, and shoe polish.

It is on EPA's top ten list of chemicals of concern. **Yet nothing has been done to regulate it.**



### METHYLENE-CHLORIDE

Before stepping down, former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who prided himself on weakening health based regulatory requirements, committed to ban methylene-chloride, a deadly paint stripper available in home improvement stores nationwide. The evidence was just too stark, even for Pruitt: The chemical has caused dozens of deaths in the past few decades. Yet this deadly chemical is still available on store shelves across the country and is being used by workers in small businesses across the country.

**Wheeler has done nothing to ban this deadly product.**



### CHLORPYRIFOS

Wheeler's EPA has refused to ban a deadly pesticide in commercial use across the country, Chlorpyrifos, pronounced klor-**pir**-uh-fos. Research by EPA scientists has deemed it unsafe, especially for farmworkers; it is also dangerous for fetuses, babies, and young children, as it permanently damages their developing brains. In 2016 EPA announced there are no safe uses for the pesticide.

This pesticide gets into our fruits and vegetables and our drinking water; in agricultural communities it is found in the air in schools, day care centers, and playgrounds. Over half of all apples and broccoli in the US are sprayed with chlorpyrifos, and it is found in corn, wheat, soybeans, oranges, grapefruits, melons, strawberries, and other foods. This is a chemical we've probably never talked about, but many of us may be eating or inhaling it every single day.

In August 2018, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered EPA to finalize the ban. In September, EPA asked the court to re-hear the case, delaying action on this dangerous chemical. **Once again, EPA is working to protect the chemical industry.**

**TO TAKE ACTION, VISIT:**

[www.momscleanairforce.org/action](http://www.momscleanairforce.org/action)

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## WHEELER'S TOXIC CHEMICAL AGENDA: PROTECT INDUSTRY, NOT PEOPLE

### Toxic Chemical Safeguards

In 2016, Congress passed a major bi-partisan law strengthening protections against toxic chemicals in consumer products. The law aimed to expand EPA's authority, so that it could finally prioritize the health of consumers over the profits of the chemical industry. **Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler is crippling this law.**

### Wheeler's Toxic Approach

- **Wheeler's EPA fails to implement transparency requirements** that would allow the public to learn what the chemical industry already knows about its products.
- **Wheeler's EPA ignores known exposures to dangerous chemicals** when evaluating their risks.
- **Wheeler's EPA weakens the review process for new chemicals**, putting our health at risk.

### Chemical Company Resumes Dominate at EPA

**Many of the key decision makers in Wheeler's EPA are beholden to the chemical industry.**

- **Nancy Beck**, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety: Came to EPA directly from the American Chemistry Council, the powerful lobbying group, where she represented the interests of chemical industry members including Dow Chemical, DuPont, Monsanto, ExxonMobil, and others.
- **Erik Baptist**, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety: Came to EPA directly from the American Petroleum Institute, the national trade association representing the interests of the natural gas and oil industry. Many chemicals in commerce are derived from fossil fuels.
- **Lynn DeKleva**, appointed to a job as an environmental engineer, Office of Chemical Safety: Came to EPA directly from DuPont. Typically, environmental engineering positions are not political appointments.

### Wheeler's EPA Is a Good Friend - to the Chemical Industry

**Wheeler's EPA has been especially generous to the chemical industry.**

- EPA under Wheeler is an agency that refuses to use its expanded authorities to require more and better information on chemical risks.
- EPA under Wheeler is an agency that refuses to restrict even the most high-risk uses of toxic chemicals, such as methylene chloride-based paint strippers.
- EPA under Wheeler is an agency that prioritizes scientific and health studies conducted by the chemical industry over studies conducted by academic researchers.

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