

MOMS
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FORCE



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STATEMENT ON SENATE VOTE CONFIRMING ANDREW WHEELER AS EPA ADMINISTRATOR

Co-founder and senior director of Moms Clean Air Force, Dominique Browning, issued this statement:

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 28, 2019) — “In a disappointing and irresponsible move, today the U.S. Senate voted 52 to 47 to confirm Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former lobbyist for the coal industry, as permanent head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This takes the country another step further in the direction of normalizing the degradation of EPA’s core mission to protect human health and our environment.

“Moms from across the country strongly opposed this nomination, because Wheeler has shown us time and again that he plans to put polluter profit over our children’s health — and we’re not stopping now. We will hold Wheeler accountable for every rollback and regulatory attack that threatens our children’s health. Wheeler has been instrumental in advancing the most regressive environmental proposals of the Trump Administration—weakening public health protections against dirty cars, heat-trapping methane, toxic mercury, pollution from coal plants, and so much more.”

Please see our guide to the top reasons that moms oppose Wheeler [here](#).

Additionally, Dominique Browning has this to say about notable Senate votes on Wheeler:

- One lone Republican, **Susan Collins of Maine**, courageously crossed party lines to vote against Wheeler. Our moms applaud Senator Collins for voting with her conscience.
- **Maine Senator Susan Collins’s vote against Wheeler shows that she** takes seriously the impact that air pollution and climate change have on the health of her constituents. She is clearly willing to [walk the walk](#) when it comes to safeguarding protections against mercury pollution.
- Despite raising concerns about the contamination of West Virginia groundwater with the toxic industrial chemical PFAS, **Senator Shelley Capito of West Virginia** capitulated to industrial polluters by voting for their friend Andrew Wheeler. In stark contrast to Senator Capito, **Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia** voted against Wheeler, putting the health of his constituents above corporate profits. This is a significant reversal based on Wheeler’s dismal track record at EPA: Last year, Manchin voted in favor of Wheeler’s nomination to become deputy administrator. Manchin cited Wheeler’s lack of urgency around setting a drinking water standard for PFAS chemicals and his recent attack on the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards as reasons for his withdrawal of support. Moms everywhere take heart in the courage Senator Manchin has demonstrated. [Read](#) one mother’s plea for her Senators to do right by West Virginians. We thank Senator Manchin for heading this call to action.
- **North Carolina Senators Burr and Tillis** also voted for Wheeler despite concerns about groundwater in their state being contaminated by toxic PFAS. Moms are disappointed our North Carolina Senators would confirm Andrew Wheeler to lead the EPA. [Read](#) why parents in North Carolina know Wheeler is the wrong choice.
- **Senator Gardner of Colorado**, by voting for Wheeler, proved once again just how out of touch he is with growing [constituent concerns](#) about climate change and much more.
- **Senator Daines of Montana** missed the headline about EPA enforcement fines for polluters reaching a historic low under Wheeler’s watch. What about Daines’s commitment to preventing the next Superfund sites in Montana? [Read](#) a letter from a Moms Clean Air Force member urging Daines to stay vigilant when it comes to EPA leadership. In contrast, **Senator Tester of Montana** voted no on Wheeler’s nomination, backed by a [strong statement](#) prior to the vote.

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Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over one million moms—and dads—working together to combat air pollution, including the urgent crisis of our changing climate. For more information, go to <http://www.momscleanairforce.org/> or follow us on Twitter [@CleanAirMoms](#), Instagram [@cleanairmoms](#), or Facebook.