



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sasha Tenenbaum, (917) 887-0146, [stenenbaum@momscleanairforce.org](mailto:stenenbaum@momscleanairforce.org)

## **WEHRUM LEAVES LEGACY AS PUBLIC HEALTH ENEMY; HIS ABRUPT DEPARTURE AMID ETHICS PROBE HAS MOMS CELEBRATING**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 26, 2019) —

Today, the Environmental Protection Agency **announced** that Bill Wehrum, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, will be departing at the end of the month. In response, co-founder and senior director of Moms Clean Air Force, Dominique Browning, issued this statement:

“Bill Wehrum is stepping down as the head of air and radiation office of EPA. He is leaving amid an investigation into his possible violations of federal ethics rules. Wehrum has made a fortune as a high paid attorney representing oil and gas interests, coal interests and coal-based power companies.

“On his agenda at EPA: A ruthless, frenzied assault on clean air rules that protect all of us. Wehrum has been the driving force behind the rollback of protections from mercury in our air, the rollback of clean car standards, the rollback of America’s Clean Power Plan, and the rollback of protections from natural gas pollution. All this while dangerous climate pollution is on the rise and our air is beginning to get dirtier again.

“In other words, Wehrum, under the direction of Andrew Wheeler, has been responsible for crippling EPA’s ability to enforce the Clean Air Act and has given the fossil fuel industry major breaks.

“Good riddance. And shame on every single senator who voted to confirm this highly paid attorney for the oil and gas industry to such an important position of protecting the country’s air. Let this be a lesson to all. The Senate now has to confirm a new chief of air. This is a presidential appointment. In the meantime, Anne Idsal will become the acting chief. She is still deciding if she believes in climate change.

“Forty-nine senators — all Republicans — voted to confirm Bill Wehrum. They should be held accountable for the death, disease, and climate pollution Wehrum has tried to inflict.”

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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. We work across the US on national and local policy issues, through a vibrant network of state-based field teams. Learn more at [www.momscleanairforce.org](http://www.momscleanairforce.org).*