

February 22, 2017

Via FOIA Online and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 566-1667

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request for Records Regarding EPA
Press Release Announcing “Scott Pruitt’s Ascension to EPA
Administrator”**

Dear FOIA Officer:

I write on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to request disclosure of records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and applicable Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations at 40 C.F.R. §§ 2.100-2.406.

I. Description of Records Sought

Please produce records of the following types in EPA’s possession, custody or control:

1. All agency documents and communications related to the content, timing, preparation, and dissemination of the EPA News Release dated February 17, 2017 and titled “Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt’s Ascension to EPA Administrator,” a copy of which is attached to this FOIA request as Exhibit A (and which is referred to in this FOIA request as the “Ascension Press Release.”)
2. All drafts of the Ascension Press Release and comments on drafts of the Ascension Press Release.
3. All communications with outside parties regarding the statements contained in the Ascension Press Release, including but not limited to communications with the following individuals and entities, and any representatives or staff of the following individuals and entities:
 - a. U.S. Representative David McKinley
 - b. American Farm Bureau Federation

- c. U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito
- d. U.S. Senator Pat Roberts
- e. Longview Power
- f. Auto Alliance
- g. American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity
- h. Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State
- i. National Association of Manufacturers
- j. National Mining Association
- k. National Pork Producers Council
- l. U.S. Representative Paul Gosar
- m. U.S. Representative Markwayne Mullin
- n. U.S. Representative Randy Weber
- o. U.S. Representative Jim Bridenstine
- p. National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- q. National Association of Home Builders

In this request, the term “records” means anything denoted by the use of that word or its singular form in the text of FOIA and includes correspondence, minutes of meetings, memoranda, notes, emails, social media posts, text messages, notices, facsimiles, charts, tables, presentations, orders, filings, and other writings (handwritten, typed, electronic, or otherwise produced, reproduced, or stored). This request seeks responsive records in the custody of any EPA office, including, but not limited to, EPA Headquarters.

Note that this request specifically seeks responsive records in or on the personal computers, cellphones or other devices, or personal email accounts used by EPA staff if used for any government purpose.

II. Request for a Fee Waiver

NRDC requests that EPA waive any fee it would otherwise charge for search and production of the records described above. FOIA dictates that requested records be provided without charge “if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii); *see also* 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(1). The requested disclosure would meet both of these requirements.

A. NRDC Satisfies the First Fee Waiver Requirement

The disclosure requested here would be “likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii); 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(1). Each of the four factors used by EPA to

evaluate the first fee waiver requirement indicates that a fee waiver is appropriate for this request. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(2).

1. *Subject of the request*

The records requested here relate to the EPA Office of the Administrator’s press statement regarding the “ascension” of Scott Pruitt to EPA Administrator. This request seeks information about EPA’s preparation of that press statement, including about the content, timing, and dissemination of the statement, and communications with outside parties about the statement. The requested records thus directly concern “the operations or activities of the government.” 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(2)(i).

2. *Informative value of the information to be disclosed*

The requested records are “likely to contribute to” the public’s understanding of government operations and activities, 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(2)(ii). The public does not currently possess any information regarding EPA’s preparation or dissemination of the Ascension Press Release, including communications with outside parties about that release. There is more than a reasonable likelihood that these records have informative value to the public, *see Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics in Washington v. U.S. Dep’t of Health & Human Servs.*, 481 F. Supp. 2d 99, 109 (D.D.C. 2006). EPA itself believes that the press statement has informative value, having posted it on the agency’s website and disseminated it widely. Information about the preparation of the press statement and communications with outside parties about the press statement has equal or greater informative value.

It is unusual that a federal agency would endorse and widely disseminate statements referring to itself as “tone deaf”; a “rogue” agency; “one of the most vilified agencies in the ‘swamp’ of overreaching government”; and a “runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers,” as the Ascension Press Release does. Disclosure of the requested records would meaningfully inform public understanding with respect to a topic of public interest. The records requested are not currently in the public domain.

3. *Contribution to an understanding of the subject by the public is likely to result from disclosure.*

NRDC’s extensive communications capabilities, and proven history of dissemination of information of public interest—including information obtained from FOIA records requests—indicate that NRDC has the ability and will to use disclosed records to reach a broad audience of interested persons with any relevant and newsworthy information the records reveal. There is a strong likelihood that disclosure of the requested records will increase public understanding of the subject matter. *See*

Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti, 326 F.3d 1309, 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2003) (finding that a requester that specified multiple channels of dissemination and estimated viewership numbers demonstrated a likelihood of contributing to public understanding of government operations and activities).

NRDC intends to disseminate any newsworthy information in the released records and its analysis of such records to its member base and to the broader public, through one or more of the many communications channels referenced below. NRDC has frequently disseminated newsworthy information to the public for free, and does not intend to resell the information requested here. NRDC's more than one million members and online activists are "a broad audience of persons interested in the subject" of EPA communications with legislators and regulated industries about the agency's mission and effectiveness, and the EPA Administrator's office apparent denigration of the agency itself as tone deaf, vilified, overreaching, and out of touch. 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(2)(iii). When combined with NRDC's communications to the public at large, the likely audience of interested persons to be reached is certainly "reasonably broad." 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(2)(iii). As NRDC's long history of incorporating information obtained through FOIA into reports, articles, and other communications illustrates, NRDC is well prepared to convey to the public any relevant information it obtains through this records request.

NRDC has the ability to disseminate information collected from this FOIA request through many channels. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- NRDC's website, available at <http://www.nrdc.org>, is updated daily and draws approximately 1.3 million page views and 510,000 unique visitors per month. The new NRDC.org launched in late March 2016 and features NRDC staff blogs, original reporting of environmental news stories, and more.
- NRDC's Activist email list includes more than 2.1 million members and online activists who receive regular communications on urgent environmental issues. This information is also made available through NRDC's online Action Center at <https://www.nrdc.org/actions>.
- *NRDC This Week* is a weekly electronic environmental newsletter distributed by email to more than 86,700 subscribers, at <http://www.nrdc.org/newsletter>.
- NRDC updates and maintains several social media accounts: Facebook (565,530 followers), Twitter (195,426 followers), Instagram (37,868 followers), YouTube (19,518 subscribers), and LinkedIn (9,108 followers). We also use Medium as another distribution channel for our content (1,478 followers).

NRDC issues press releases, issue papers, and reports; directs and produces movies, such as *Sonic Sea*, *Stories from the Gulf*, and *Acid Test*, narrated by Rachel

McAdams, Robert Redford, and Sigourney Weaver, respectively; participates in press conferences and interviews with reporters and editorial writers; distributes content on Huffington Post; and has more than fifty staff members dedicated to communications work.

NRDC employees provide Congressional testimony; appear on television, radio, and web broadcasts and at conferences; and contribute to numerous national newspapers, magazines, academic journals, other periodicals, and books. A few examples are provided below:

- Research article, “The requirement to rebuild US fish stocks: Is it working?” *Marine Policy*, July 2014 (co-authored by NRDC Oceans Program Senior Scientist Lisa Suatoni and Senior Attorney Brad Sewell);
- Issue brief, “The Untapped Potential of California’s Water Supply: Efficiency, Reuse, and Stormwater,” June 2014 (co-authored by NRDC Water Program Senior Attorney Kate Poole and Senior Policy Analyst Ed Osann); *see also* “Saving Water in California,” *N.Y. Times*, July 9, 2014 (discussing the report’s estimates);
- Article, “Waves of phony charges over new clean water safeguards,” *The Hill*, June 17, 2014 (by NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner);
- Article, “Don’t Buy the Smear of the EPA,” *L.A. Times*, June 3, 2014 (by NRDC President Frances Beinecke);
- Transcript, “Conservationists Call For Quiet: The Ocean Is Too Loud!” Nat’l Pub. Radio, *All Things Considered*, July 28, 2013 (featuring NRDC Marine Mammal Protection Program Director Michael Jasny);
- Testimony of David Doniger, NRDC Climate and Air Program Policy Director and Senior Attorney, before the United States House Subcommittee on Energy and Power, June 19, 2012;
- Article, “Is there a ‘proper level’ of compliance with environmental law?” *Trends: ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Newsletter*, Jan./Feb. 2008 (authored by NRDC Senior Attorney Michael Wall);
- NRDC Document Bank, <http://docs.nrdc.org/>.

NRDC routinely uses FOIA to obtain information from federal agencies that NRDC legal and scientific experts analyze in order to inform the public about a variety of issues, including energy policy, climate change, wildlife protection, nuclear weapons, pesticides, drinking water safety, and air quality. Some specific examples are provided below:

- (1) In April 2014, NRDC relied on FOIA documents for a report on potentially unsafe chemicals added to food, without the safety oversight of the Food and Drug Administration or the notification of the public. The report, titled *Generally Recognized as Secret: Chemicals Added to Food in the United States*, reveals concerns within the agency

about several chemicals used as ingredients in food that manufacturers claim are “generally recognized as safe”. *See also* Kimberly Kindy, “Are secret, dangerous ingredients in your food?” *Wash. Post*, Apr. 7, 2014 (discussing NRDC’s report).

- (2) NRDC obtained, through FOIA, FDA review documents on the nontherapeutic use of antibiotic additives in livestock and poultry feed. In January 2014, NRDC published a report, titled *Playing Chicken with Antibiotics*, which is based on the documents obtained, and reveals decades of hesitancy on FDA’s part to ensure the safety of these drug additives. *See also* P.J. Huffstutter and Brian Grow, “Drug critic slams FDA over antibiotic oversight in meat production,” *Reuters*, Jan. 27, 2014 (discussing NRDC’s report).
- (3) NRDC has used White House documents obtained through FOIA and from other sources to inform the public about EPA’s decision not to protect wildlife and workers from the pesticide atrazine in the face of industry pressure to keep atrazine on the market. *See Still Poisoning the Well: Atrazine Continues to Contaminate Surface Water and Drinking Water in the United States*, <http://www.nrdc.org/health/atrazine/files/atrazine10.pdf> (Apr. 2010) (update to 2009 report); *see also* William Souder, “It’s Not Easy Being Green: Are Weed-Killers Turning Frogs Into Hermaphrodites?” *Harper’s Bazaar*, Aug. 1, 2006 (referencing documents obtained and posted online by NRDC).
- (4) NRDC incorporated information obtained through FOIA into a report, available at <http://www.nrdc.org/wildlife/marine/sound/contents.asp>, on the impacts of military sonar and other industrial noise pollution on marine life. *See Sounding the Depths II: The Rising Toll of Sonar, Shipping and Industrial Ocean Noise on Marine Life* (Nov. 2005) (update to 1999 report). The report also relied upon and synthesized information from other sources. Since the report’s publication, the sonar issue has continued to attract widespread public attention. *See, e.g.*, “Protest Raised over New Tests of Naval Sonar,” *Nat’l Pub. Radio, All Things Considered*, July 24, 2007.
- (5) NRDC scientists have used information obtained through FOIA to publish analyses of the United States’ and other nations’ nuclear weapons programs. In 2004, for example, NRDC scientists incorporated information obtained through FOIA into a feature article on the United States’ plans to deploy a ballistic missile system and the implications for global security. *See* Hans M. Kristensen, Matthew G.

McKinzie, and Robert S. Norris, "The Protection Paradox," *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, Mar./Apr. 2004.

- (6) NRDC obtained through FOIA, and made public, records of the operations of the Bush administration's Energy Task Force, along with analysis of selected excerpts and links to the administration's index of withheld documents. NRDC's efforts cast light on an issue of considerable public interest. *See, e.g.*, Elizabeth Shogren, "Bush Gets One-Two Punch on Energy," *L.A. Times*, Mar. 28, 2002, at A22.
- (7) Through FOIA, NRDC obtained a memorandum by ExxonMobil, advocating the replacement of the sitting head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and used the document to help inform the public about what may have been behind the Bush administration's decision to replace Dr. Robert Watson. *See* NRDC Press Release and attached Exxon memorandum, "Confidential Papers Show Exxon Hand in White House Move to Oust Top Scientist from International Global Warming Panel," Apr. 3, 2002; Elizabeth Shogren, "Charges Fly Over Science Panel Pick," *L.A. Times*, Apr. 4, 2002, at A19.
- (8) Through FOIA and other sources, NRDC obtained information on nationwide levels of arsenic in drinking water and used it in a report, *Arsenic and Old Laws* (2000), available in print and online at <http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/arsenic/aolinx.asp>. The report guided interested members of the public on how to learn more about arsenic in their own drinking water supplies. *Id.*; *see also* Steve LaRue, "EPA Aims to Cut Levels of Arsenic in Well Water," *San Diego Union-Tribune*, June 5, 2000, at B1 (referencing NRDC report).

As these examples demonstrate, NRDC has a proven ability to digest, synthesize, and quickly disseminate information gleaned from FOIA requests to a broad audience of interested persons. Therefore, the requested records disclosure is likely to contribute to the public's understanding of the subject.

4. Significance of the contribution to public understanding

The records requested shed light on matters of considerable public interest and concern: the credibility of the EPA Administrator's office and the EPA Administrator's ability and willingness to carry out the agency's environmental and public health responsibilities, which are clearly implicated by the Administrator's office's denigration of the agency as tone deaf, vilified, overreaching, and out of touch.

Disclosure would also help the public understand the nature and extent of communications with outside parties about the Ascension Press Release. And disclosure would help the public to better understand and evaluate the basis for the Administrator's office's willingness or eagerness to describe the agency in starkly disparaging terms.

Public understanding of these topics would be significantly enhanced by disclosure of the requested records.

B. NRDC Satisfies the Second Fee Waiver Requirement

Disclosure in this case would also satisfy the second prerequisite of a fee waiver request because NRDC does not have any commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii); 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(1), (3). NRDC is a not-for-profit organization and does not act as a middleman to resell information obtained under FOIA. "Congress amended FOIA to ensure that it be 'liberally construed in favor of waivers for noncommercial requesters.'" *Rossotti*, 326 F.3d at 1312 (internal citation omitted); *see Natural Res. Def. Council v. United States Env'tl. Prot. Agency*, 581 F. Supp. 2d 491, 498 (S.D.N.Y. 2008). NRDC wishes to serve the public by reviewing, analyzing, and disclosing newsworthy and presently non-public information about the subject of this request. As noted above, work done by EPA on this topic relates to a matter of considerable public interest and concern. Disclosure of the requested records will contribute significantly to public understanding of the underlying subject matter.

III. Willingness to Pay Fees Under Protest

Please provide the records requested above regardless of your fee waiver decision. In order to expedite a response, NRDC will, if necessary and under protest, pay fees in accordance with EPA's FOIA regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(e)(1)(iv) for all or a portion of the requested records. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(4). Please contact me before doing anything that would cause the fee to exceed \$250. NRDC reserves its rights to seek administrative or judicial review of any fee waiver denial.

IV. Conclusion

Please email or (if it is not possible to email) mail the requested records to me at the NRDC office address listed below. Please send them on a rolling basis; EPA's search for—or deliberations concerning—certain records should not delay the production of others that EPA's has already retrieved and elected to produce. *See generally* 40 C.F.R. § 2.104 (describing response deadlines). If EPA concludes that any of the records requested here are publicly available, please let me know.

Please do not hesitate to call or email with questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Aaron Colangelo

Aaron Colangelo

Natural Resources Defense Council

1152 15th Street NW Suite 300

Washington DC 20005

202-289-2376

EXHIBIT A

Menu

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Job Creators, American Energy Producers, Farmers and Elected Officials Cheer Scott Pruitt's Ascension to EPA Administrator

02/17/2017

Contact Information:
(press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON--American leaders and job creators all across the country today cheered as Scott Pruitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the new EPA Administrator.

Here is some of what they are saying:

U.S. Representative David McKinley (WV)

“Scott Pruitt is the leader America needs at the EPA. He understands that we can protect our environment with common sense policies that don't attack job creators and send thousands of workers, like West Virginia's coal miners, to the unemployment line. In Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt tirelessly fought unwarranted regulations and federal government abuse. I am confident he will bring a pragmatic and balanced approach to the EPA by returning it to its original and lawful mission.”

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

“Scott Pruitt’s confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will bring a breath of fresh air to the post. America’s farmers and ranchers look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt as he leads the EPA with a welcome level of common sense in the important job of protecting the environment. For too long, farmers and ranchers have been victims of EPA’s harsh regulatory overreach. Farmers are conservationists to the core and we want to play a positive, cooperative role in protecting the environment we rely on to produce food for this nation. In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community. We’re optimistic that he will retain those same values as administrator and we look forward to working with him. But what we truly look forward to is working with someone at EPA who understands how farmers and ranchers care for our nation’s natural resources each and every day.”

U.S. Senator Shelly Moore Capito (WV)

“Attorney General Pruitt is the most thoroughly vetted nominee for administrator in the history of the EPA. He embodies the leadership we need to restore accountability to the agency. He will return the EPA to its core mission of protecting public and environmental health while balancing economic impact. While I am disappointed by the Democrat obstruction that delayed today’s vote, I am very glad the Senate has confirmed Attorney General Pruitt. I know he will be an excellent partner to West Virginia as the next administrator of the EPA.”

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (KS)

“I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt. He understands that while farmers and ranchers make their living off the land, they are also its best stewards. For years we have struggled with an EPA that was not only tone deaf to the needs and concerns of rural America, it was downright adversarial. Producers were burdened with overregulation, which left them feeling ruled, not governed. I am confident Pruitt will lead an EPA that is more respectful of agriculture and will work to restore the trust of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans.”

Jeff Keffer, CEO, Longview Power

“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership, we expect the EPA to return to sensible environmental policies based on our existing laws that protect the environment and public health while recognizing the need for reliable and affordable clean coal-based electricity and the many jobs in the coal industry.”

Mitch Bainwol, President and CEO, Auto Alliance

"We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his confirmation and look forward to working with him and his team to get the Midterm Review back on track. The Administrator has a keen understanding of how compliance with the government fuel economy/greenhouse gas program depends on what consumers buy, not what automakers produce. That’s why standards must also reflect market realities. We remain convinced the best way to advance our shared goals for the environment, safety, consumer affordability and manufacturing jobs is to reinstate the data-driven review -- under the originally promised schedule."

Paul Bailey, President and CEO, American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

“We are pleased the Senate has confirmed Mr. Pruitt to be the next EPA Administrator. He will make an exceptional head of EPA. Under his leadership,

we expect EPA to return to sensible policies that both protect the environment and recognize the need for reliable and affordable coal-based electricity.”

Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State

“An expert on regulatory and constitutional law, Scott Pruitt will bring a necessary balance to the Environmental Protection Agency. He recognizes that a clean environment and a vibrant economy do not have to be mutually exclusive. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he has repeatedly taken on the tough fights to stop the regulatory overreach of the past decade. Above all, he has a record of distinguished service that will serve our nation well.”

Jay Timmons, President, National Association of Manufacturers

“After facing record high costs to comply with EPA regulations over the past decade, manufacturers welcomed today’s Senate confirmation of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. We are confident that under his leadership, Pruitt will restore balance to the way environmental regulations are developed. Manufacturers look forward to him getting to work right away. Manufacturers know it’s possible to have responsible environmental stewardship and robust economic growth at the same time. We are leaders on sustainability and developing emissions-reducing innovations, and as we look to find solutions to the environmental challenges we face, manufacturers will continue to lead the way.”

Hal Quinn, CEO, National Mining Association

“The mining community welcomes Mr. Pruitt to Washington as EPA administrator. He brings to this important position a wealth of knowledge about the laws that provide environmental protection to the American people, as well as respect for the law and its limitations on a powerful bureaucracy. As a distinguished attorney general he has demonstrated his appreciation for the right of states to manage their affairs where the law allows, and coming from an important energy state he is mindful of the costs that regulations can impose on the economy. NMA looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his staff to deliver the balanced policies the nation deserves.”

John Weber, National Pork Producers Council

“As Oklahoma attorney general, he struck a balance between protecting the environment and protecting the livelihoods of farmers and business owners. Everyone, particularly farmers, wants to have clean air and water and to preserve and protect our natural resources. But you don’t achieve those goals by piling regulations on the very people who are the stewards of the land, air and water. Scott Pruitt understands that, and that will serve him well as EPA administrator.”

U.S. Representative Paul Gosar (AZ)

“President Trump’s selection of Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator is a clear signal that people, not politics, will be the top priority of his administration. Scott Pruitt believes the EPA should work with local and state governments to enact common-sense regulations that will protect the environment without crushing our economy, I enthusiastically support Administrator Pruitt and I know that he will listen to the unique concerns of Western communities and work with Congress to develop positive legislative solutions. The Western Caucus looks forward to working with him closely.”

U.S. Representative Markwayne Mullin (OK)

“After today’s confirmation vote in the Senate, I can hear the sighs of relief coming from thousands of business owners, farmers, and citizens across the country. As the head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt will provide relief for those

businesses, farmers, and citizens that have been suffering under this toxic regulatory environment for the last eight years. In Scott's work as Oklahoma's Attorney General, he recognized that Oklahomans know their state best. The most efficient regulatory environment is one where the federal government doesn't tell the states how to regulate; it lets the states determine what is most effective for their state and people. I want to congratulate Scott on this new position and I look forward to following his work cutting the bureaucratic tape at the EPA."

U.S. Representative Randy Weber (TX)

"Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is both capable and qualified for the role of EPA Administrator. As Oklahoma Attorney General, he combatted a rogue EPA on numerous occasions. His confirmation will help restore the EPA to an organization that balances environmental protection with practical regulation."

U.S. Representative Jim Bridenstine (OK)

"President Obama turned the EPA into one of the most vilified agencies in the 'swamp' of over-reaching government. As EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt will bring a rational, constitutional, and federalist perspective to environmental stewardship. He knows the value of preserving our air, water, and land as well as the impact that regulations have had on jobs and people. He is an excellent addition to the Trump Administration."

Craig Uben, President, National Cattlemen's Beef Association

"For far too long, the EPA has been a runaway bureaucracy largely out of touch with how its policies directly affect folks like cattle ranchers, who use – and responsibly care for – the environment while providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world. Scott Pruitt will restore some common sense to environmental policy and we look forward to working with him on restoring regulatory sanity to Washington, such as by killing the onerous 'Waters of the United States' rule."

Granger MacDonald, Chairman, National Association of Home Builders

"NAHB congratulates Scott Pruitt on being confirmed as the nation's next EPA Administrator. Pruitt understands the need for a commonsense regulatory process that is based on sound science, and does not trample states' rights or ignore the economic impact on small businesses. NAHB looks forward to working with Administrator Pruitt and his team to help move towards this more reasonable approach."

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