

January 17, 2017

Dear Senator:

Our faith traditions value inclusivity, justice, peace, ecological stewardship, and the common good. It is through this lens that we review the recent nominations from President-elect Trump, including the nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

President-elect Trump indicated his intention to protect clean air and water. Yet, Pruitt, his nominee for EPA Administrator, has worked against protecting the environment and human health. Pruitt, as Oklahoma Attorney General, brought multiple lawsuits against the EPA to counter measures that would safeguard our public health, land and water. In addition, Pruitt has cast doubt on the science of climate change, helping to create an atmosphere that has delayed action on climate and placed communities, particularly low-income and minority communities, at risk for increased disease and other climate impacts.

President-elect Trump promised to drain the swamp of Washington from special interest influence. Yet, Trump's nominee to head EPA collected more than \$300,000 in campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry. Your duty as Senator is to assure the preservation of this republic and provide for the general welfare of the people, not for self-serving special interests.

We are concerned that Pruitt as head of the EPA would put vulnerable communities at risk for environmental harm and prioritize polluters over human health. As faith organizations, we therefore urge you to carefully investigate, thoroughly question and consider rejection of the appointment of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, who has a demonstrated history of ties to special-interest groups, has fought against the very agency he may head, and has worked at cross purposes for healthy communities and a healthy environment.

Sincerely,

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light
Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light
Creation Justice Ministries
Delaware Interfaith Power & Light
Disciples Center for Public Witness
Earth Ministry
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light
Green Chalice Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Hazon

Interfaith Power & Light

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

Iowa Interfaith Power & Light

Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

National Council of Churches USA

New York Interfaith Power & Light

Oklahoma Interfaith Power & Light

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light

Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light

Sojourners

Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment (Roman Catholic)

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light

Young Evangelicals for Climate Action