

January 17, 2017

Senator Edward Markey  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

As Massachusetts organizations representing hundreds of thousands of members, we write to express our strong opposition to the appointment of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt for Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We urge you to vote against this nomination and to make your position known soon when it can influence the important debate about this nominee. Massachusetts needs an EPA Administrator who will work to protect the clean air and clean water that are so vital to our economy, health, and quality of life.

Mr. Pruitt has a clear record of fighting to block the EPA from enacting vital safeguards for the nation's clean air and clean water. He has sued the EPA to block protections for public health, including standards for reducing soot and smog pollution that crosses interstate lines and protections against emissions of mercury, arsenic, and other toxic pollutants from power plants. Putting Mr. Pruitt in charge of the EPA is like asking an arsonist to lead a fire department.

Massachusetts policymakers have long recognized that clean air and clean water are not only critical aspects of public health and the environment, but also integral components of Massachusetts' economy. That's why Massachusetts' elected officials, including you, have shown important, consistent, and deeply appreciated leadership in defending EPA's authority to reduce air and water pollution. As Oklahoma's Attorney General, Mr. Pruitt has pursued the opposite agenda. For example, while Massachusetts is committed by statute to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 and is a proud member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Mr. Pruitt has sued EPA to block implementation of the Clean Power Plan. The clean energy sector is the fastest growing sector of our economy, now employing more than 100,000 people. The clean energy economy contributes \$11.8 billion to our state's gross state product and clean energy jobs have increased by 75 percent since 2010. Furthermore, these are well paying jobs with almost 70% of the sector's full time workers earning at least \$50,000 a year.

Mr. Pruitt's denial of the science of climate change is deeply troubling, and should be disqualifying for the position of EPA Administrator. Mr. Pruitt falsely claims that the climate debate "is far from settled" and that "scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming and its connections to the actions of mankind." But you know as well as any that climate change is happening now, humans are responsible, and Massachusetts is at risk. The most recent decade was the hottest on record, shifting water cycles and posing threats to agriculture, forests, infrastructure, tourism, health, and homes. And heavy rainfall events have and will continue to dramatically increase, exacerbating stormwater runoff and water quality problems. Scientists are as close to being unanimous about these facts as can be expected on any issue. Further denial is simply a cover for inaction.

If confirmed, Mr. Pruitt seems intent on undermining EPA's authorities, cutting federal funds available to invest in desperately-needed clean water infrastructure at the state level, and disrupting our national response to climate change. Such actions would increase pollution risks to Massachusetts residents and our economy, and represent a significant set-back to global efforts to reduce climate changing pollution.

Mr. Pruitt could put at risk much of the environmental progress that has been achieved through bipartisan efforts over the past several decades. The Commonwealth's air and water quality have improved significantly thanks to EPA's implementation of environmental laws. We appreciate the role you have played in working to protect Massachusetts's environment and working to address the threat of climate change. That is why we urge you to oppose the nomination of Scott Pruitt for EPA Administrator.

Sincerely,

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