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**[ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL] Releases Statement Opposing Installation of Former Coal Industry Lobbyist to Lead EPA**

**(CITY, STATE) –** Today, in response to Acting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler’s hearing before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, [Organization/Individual] released the following statement:

“Acting Administrator Wheeler is a former coal industry lobbyist who represented some of the largest polluters in the country, and has continued to advance his former clients’ agenda at the agency created to oversee them. Now, as Wheeler goes before the Senate to be confirmed as EPA administrator permanently, his past as an industry lobbyist calls into question his impartiality and the actions he’s taken since becoming acting administrator are concerning.

“At his hearing, Wheeler failed to answer for his failure to carry out the EPA’s mission to protect our health and environment, attacks on lifesaving health and climate protections. Additionally, it is profoundly unfair for Wheeler to audition for a promotion to lead an agency while his staff is locked out and denied their paychecks, making it difficult to pay their bills and mortgages and provide for their families.

“The reality is that Americans overwhelmingly support lifesaving consumer protections like those on mercury, methylene chloride, and other deadly toxins. They deserve an EPA administrator that puts their health and safety above the wishes of polluters. And they deserve an EPA that lives up to its mission to protect our health and environment.”

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