Acting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former coal industry lobbyist who represented some of the largest polluters in the country, has been nominated to fulfill the position of administrator permanently.

Wheeler’s past as an industry lobbyist calls into question his impartiality, and the actions he’s taken since becoming acting administrator are concerning.

The EPA should be led by someone who is committed to fulfill the agency’s mission to protect our health and the environment.

As the Senate considers Wheeler’s nominations, senators should demand he take steps to protect our economy, our environment, our national security, and our health. Specifically, Wheeler should provide commitments that he will:

* Withdraw his anti-states’ rights proposal to limit state authority to set stronger clean car standards that reduce pollution and protect our health;
* Stop his attempt to undermine mercury pollution standards that reduce dangerous toxins from power plants, including mercury, arsenic, soot, and lead, which threaten children, pregnant women, and developing babies. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that causes permanent damage to the brains of babies and unborn children, leading to developmental delays, learning disabilities, and birth defects.
* Drop his obstruction of the Kigali Agreement – an international agreement to address climate change by phasing down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the fastest growing and very dangerous climate pollutants used in refrigerants and aerosols – and allow the Senate to vote on ratification.
* Finalize the ban on deadly methylene chloride, a carcinogen in paint strippers that turns to carbon monoxide in the body and can threaten consumers with rapid asphyxiation and heart attacks.

[STATE DEMONYM]s overwhelmingly support lifesaving consumer protections like those on mercury, methylene chloride, and other deadly toxins. When it comes to protecting our health and economy, there’s no reason for Wheeler to hesitate to make these commitments as he asks for senators’ support.