**CAC OpEd Content: State of the Union**

[Introductory Paragraph/Personal Anecdote]

On January 30, President Trump will give [gave] his State of the Union address. Sadly, he won’t [didn’t] say the truth. What is the state of the union? Thanks to him and his administration, it’s polluted.

[Insert description of author’s credentials; why are they qualified to speak about this?]

Since day one, President Trump has worked to rig the system for corporate polluters.

First, he nominated Oklahoma politician Scott Pruitt to lead the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Before joining EPA, Scott Pruitt spent years attacking the EPA and its foundational Clean Air Act. Now, he has a platform within EPA to do even greater damage. And he is.

Second, President Trump and now Administrator Scott Pruitt have dismantled health protections like the Clean Power Plan, which limits carbon pollution from power plants. By the Trump administration’s own count, ending the Clean Power Plan will lead to 4,500 more premature deaths each year by 2030. [AND/OR: “Trump has targeted clean car standards that have saved Americans $50 billion in gas money, in order to allow automakers to build cars that could be too dirty to compete in Europe or China. The Trump administration also attacked a rule that would have prevented oil drillers from wasting natural gas, a rule that would have saved taxpayers $800 million.”]Third, the president promised to “cut red tape.” Instead, he’s attacked clean air and water protections. In fact, he’s added red tape to help polluters see green. Trump’s energy secretary Rick Perry wanted to meddle in energy markets and use taxpayer dollars to bailout dirty coal plants, until widespread and bipartisan opposition killed the Perry tax. It’s evidence of an alarming fact: the only promises the president tries to keep are to his donors and friends.

No, not even the president’s base is safe from his dangerous policies. President Trump promised to restore coal country. Yet, miner deaths [doubled](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/367034-coal-mining-deaths-skyrocket-in-2017) in 2017. And next, Trump is reportedly looking to [end protections against black lung disease](https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/politics/trump-regulatory-initiative-targets-black-lung-protections/article_0710897c-7059-5343-a586-88fbfa0afaa8.html).

[STATE] families and workers deserve better than Trump’s toxic agenda and broken promises.

The [INSERT NUMBER] of [STATE DEMONYM e.g. Coloradans] who suffer from asthma deserve better. Latino and African-American children, who face disproportionate harm from power plant pollution and who are significantly more likely to die from asthma than white children, deserve better.

His first year is in the ‘dirty’ record books. This year, the president must stop undermining clean air and water protections. For example, if President Trump is serious about action on infrastructure, he must not use it as a ploy to dismantle environmental protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places.

We in [STATE] must demand so. Because unfortunately, he won’t put our health first otherwise. So far, middle class Americans are just collateral damage in this smash and grab presidency.

[Final Paragraphs Tying Back to Introduction]