**CAC Letters to the Editor: State of the Union**

**LTE #1 – Science**

In his State of the Union address, the president mentioned a lot. However, he failed to mention one priority that’s been very important to him: undermining science-based policymaking.

To help out his millionaire polluter buddies, the president is dismantling science across the federal government – especially at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). That’s really dangerous for [State].

The president installed polluter-ally Scott Pruitt as his EPA administrator. Administrator Pruitt has gone to work undermining the rigorous science the EPA relies on to protect our air and water. Pruitt ignored EPA scientists and approved chlorpyrifos for use on food, despite warnings that the pesticide, a compound similar to sarin gas, is very dangerous to children. Pruitt dismantled a science advisory board and silenced scientists who tried to talk about climate change. He himself has repeatedly questioned climate change—going so far as to label it a “Chinese hoax”—despite the overwhelming scientific consensus that the climate is changing in dangerous ways.

All of this impacts the air [State Demonym e.g. Coloradoans] breathe and the water we drink.

Science is the sword the EPA wields against pollution. Without it, pollution wins the day. Yet, President Trump continues to put corporate polluters first – and that comes at the expense of our children and our health.

[State] deserves better.

**LTE #2 – Public Health**

In his State of the Union address, the president tried to excuse or ignore his broken promises. But don’t let him fool you. He is trying to move [State] back to a time where rivers ignited and the air burned.

What is the state of the union? Thanks to President Trump, it’s polluted.

Despite promising the people of [State] “crystal clear” water, he dedicated his first year to rigging the system for corporate polluters and undermining clean air, water and climate protections.

The list of his dirty deeds is alarming: appointing longtime polluter ally Scott Pruitt as his EPA administrator, repealing the lifesaving Clean Power Plan, threatening the money-saving clean car standards, and allowing the pesticide chlorpyrifos, a compound similar to sarin gas, on our children’s food.

In his first year, President Trump was more interested in befriending oil and gas executives than making sure our children can breathe clean air, drink clean water, and play on safe land.

[State] families deserve better.

**LTE #3 – Environmental Justice**

You know what was missing in the president’s State of the Union address? Any mention of climate change or how it is a civil rights issue.

The scientific community overwhelming agrees: the climate is changing and it’s having dangerous effects.

Worse, the most vulnerable among us are the most at risk from climate change and the carbon pollution that fuels it. African American children are four times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than white children. Latino children are far more likely to die from asthma than white children; African American children are seven times more likely to die.

This is serious. President Trump has rigged the system for corporate polluters to profit and sidestep air and water safeguards and protections. He has blatantly ignored the black and Latino children in [State] and across the county who are suffering.

**LTE #4 – Climate Change & Extreme Weather**

You know what was missing in tonight’s State of the Union address? Any mention of climate change or its deadly effects in states like [State].

This year was the most expensive one for extreme weather – ever. Hurricanes slammed Texas, Louisiana, Florida and Puerto Rico. Yet, the president does more than ignore those suffering from climate change; he mocks them on Twitter. And during the year with so much extreme weather, he even repealed a commonsense safeguard meant to protect federally-funded infrastructure from extreme flooding.

This is disgraceful.

President Trump needs to change his ways, and his toxic agenda, in a hurry. Our future, our health and our families depend on it.