**CAC Message Guidance: President Trump’s Dirty Budget**

President Trump, Scott Pruitt, and Rick Perry are leading an unprecedented attack on the health and safety of American families. They’re pursuing severe and unnecessary budget cuts to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which would hamstring the agency’s ability to protect Americans from dangerous pollutants like smog, mercury, arsenic, carbon pollution, and methane. At the same time, they’re propping up their polluting cronies by slashing Department of Energy funding for researching safer, cleaner, and cheaper renewable energy.

By gutting EPA’s budget and giving special favors to the dirty energy industry, the Trump Administration is ignoring the impact of climate change and pollution on Americans’ health and pocketbooks. Americans don’t support this Dirty Budget and want action on climate change and for polluters to be held accountable.

**Environmental Protection Agency:**

* President Trump’s budget called for cutting the EPA by 34 percent—a proposal that directly threatens the health and safety of American families and is aimed at nothing less than letting polluters off the hook and gutting the Clean Air Act.
* This Dirty Budget would devastate American families and gut fundamental health and environment protections like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act that we have relied on for decades.
* While the president’s budget is dead on arrival in Congress, it does clearly outline the administration’s priorities. These clearly do not include protecting health and the environment or protecting Americans from dangerous and deadly pollution.
* The EPA is the target of the deepest and most devastating cuts in the proposed federal budget. The Dirty Budget would:
	+ Virtually eliminate popular, bipartisan programs to clean up iconic bodies of water like the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay;
	+ Slash funding for scientific research on climate change at a time when extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, more destructive, and costlier;
	+ Cut hundreds of staff from EPA’s Office of Science and Technology; and
	+ Dramatically scale back the EPA’s ability to hold polluters accountable, giving Pruitt’s industry allies a free pass.
* The amount of civil penalties polluters paid for breaking the law dropped by nearly half under Scott Pruitt’s tenure as EPA administrator. Now, Pruitt and President Trump are trying to slash the funding that makes prosecuting criminal polluters possible.
* By weakening enforcement and undermining the law, 53 million people across the country who live within 3 miles of a Superfund site will be put at increased risk—including 18 percent of all children in the U.S. under age 5.
* Trump and Pruitt’s deep budget cuts to the EPA would result in dirtier air, dirtier water, and more toxic chemicals that put our health at risk.

**EPA Inspector General’s Office:**

* Last year, the EPA Inspector General’s office asked the Trump administration for a funding increase. Instead, the Trump administration proposed slashing the watchdog agency by nearly $4 million dollars.
* Dramatic cuts to the Inspector General’s office would decimate its ability to investigate ethical lapses and improper conduct, including its current investigations into Pruitt's frequent travel to his home state of Oklahoma, his $40,000 trip to Morocco to advocate for the oil and gas industry, and, most recently, his extensive first class flights.
* That’s why a compromised and ineffective Inspector General’s office is music to Pruitt’s ears. Pruitt has diligently tried to conceal his dirty dealings and wasteful spending. That’s why he spent nearly $25,000 in taxpayer funds to install a secret phone booth in his private office and refuses to publicly release his meeting and travel schedules, breaking with decades of bipartisan precedent.
* Pruitt is acting like he has something to hide. That’s because he does. He doesn’t want the American people to know the full extent of his luxurious travel on U.S. taxpayers’ dime. And now the EPA’s internal watchdog, the Inspector General, will have fewer resources to ensure compliance with the law.

**Department of Energy:**

* President Trump and Energy Secretary Rick Perry are attempting to give their dirty energy cronies a helping hand by slashing the Department of Energy’s renewable energy and energy efficiency program to the bone with a 72 percent budget cut.
* This isn’t the first time Trump’s DOE has tried to create an uneven playing field in favor of the coal industry and other more expensive fossil fuels.  His DOE tried to impose the “Perry Tax” on Americans – Energy Secretary Rick Perry’s attempt to prop up the coal industry with “cost recovery” funds at taxpayer expense, prioritizing polluter profits over healthy families. Thankfully, Trump’s own FERC Commissioners saw through this market manipulation and unanimously rejected the “Perry Tax.”
* Trump and Perry are trying to manipulate the market, stall clean energy innovation, and force Americans to rely on outdated, polluting sources of dirty energy.

**In Conclusion:**

* Trump and his Dirty Cabinet have proposed a budget that puts every American at risk, endangers public health, scales back clean energy development and props up dirty, expensive fossil fuels.
* Last year, the American people and Congress rejected Trump’s outrageous budget cuts to EPA.  This year, we’re ready to do it again.
* Americans will not accept any more cuts to programs that would jeopardize our communities and our children’s health. President Trump, Rick Perry, and Public Health Enemy Number One Scott Pruitt need to be held accountable.