**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:**

**RE:** Scott Pruitt’s science denial is unacceptable for an EPA administrator

**DATE:** [DATE], 2018

In an [interview with CBS News](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/political-podcast-the-takeout/) released [TODAY], Scott Pruitt says he wants EPA “to do more science.” His record at the helm of the EPA tells a different story.

Scott Pruitt has waged a war on science since becoming EPA administrator. He has deleted EPA webpages on climate change, dissolved longstanding scientific advisory councils, and handed top agency jobs to coal lobbyists and other industry insiders. Recently, [Pruitt announced](http://thehill.com/regulation/energy-environment/375725-major-epa-reorganization-will-end-science-research-program) that he is shutting down EPA’s “children centers” which study the deadly impact toxic chemicals have on kids.

Now, a recently-uncovered radio program confirms that denying settled science has been a constant throughout Pruitt’s career in politics. In this program, broadcast in 2005 on Tulsa radio station KFAQ-AM, Pruitt wrongly claims, “**There aren't sufficient scientific facts to establish the theory of evolution.”**

Pruitt has justified his extreme, anti-science views by citing his faith. However, being a person of faith should not preclude Pruitt, or anyone, from accepting widely accepted science and data that supports efforts to protect our health and environment.

**When you consider writing about Pruitt’s use of his faith to account for his anti-science agenda, please consider writing about his long record of rejecting science.**

* Pruitt rejects climate science, falsely claiming that carbon pollution isn’t the “primary contributor” to climate change. It is.
* In February 2018, Pruitt took his climate denial to a new level by saying that a warming climate could be a good thing. In [an interview with Nevada television station KSNV](http://news3lv.com/news/local/epa-chief-scott-pruitt-goes-one-on-one-with-news-3), he claimed “humans have most flourished during times of what, warming trends.”
* In a recent interview with [Christian Broadcasting Network](http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2018/february/unraveling-the-weaponization-of-the-epa-is-top-priority-for-scott-pruitt) Pruitt used his interpretation of the Bible to defend his policies that give oil and gas companies, coal companies and power plants, and other dirty energy interests a license to pollute. These policies, including Pruitt’s proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan, could cost thousands of lives.
* Pruitt’s record has made it clear that he does not value science – that should alarm every American.
* The EPA relies on science and scientists to meet its mission to protect the environment and our health.
* Pruitt is sidelining science and making decisions on a political basis. He’s made dozens of decisions that put the interest of polluters over the health of Americans.

The head of the U.S. Environmental Agency should be a champion of science and data-based solutions that reduce pollution and keep our communities healthy and safe. It is possible to be a person of strong faith and a person who understands and accepts science. Scott Pruitt’s rejection of science is unprecedented at the agency, and his efforts to censor science while making secret, backroom deals with polluters prove that he’s unfit to lead the EPA.