**CAC Message Guidance: Scott Pruitt Returns to Capitol Hill**

On April 26th, embattled Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt will head to Capitol Hill to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. Pruitt will appear before these committees to review his Fiscal Year 2019 budget, but he’s also expected to face pointed questions into his wasteful spending of taxpayer funds; his countless conflicts of interest; and his dangerous assault on clean air, clean water, and climate change protections. Coincidentally, these hearings will take place on the last day that EPA will accept public comments on Pruitt’s proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan, which set the first-ever federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants and encourages the development of clean, renewable energy.

**Scott Pruitt is not protecting the health and safety of the American people, which is his number one job. Instead, he has left criminal polluters unprosecuted and let corporate polluters off the hook. He has failed to live up to the EPA’s mission to protect our health and environment and instead has put us all in danger.**

* The EPA’s mission is to protect our health and environment. By any measure, Scott Pruitt has failed to meet that mission.
* Scott Pruitt’s dirty dealings have real and damaging consequences for children, seniors and families.
* Instead of standing up for low-income families and communities of color, who are particularly at risk from the impacts of carbon pollution, Pruitt acts on behalf of his polluter industry allies—letting them break the law and get away with it.
* He’s called for drastic budget cuts that would undermine the agency’s ability to enforce clean air and clean water laws that protect Americans from dangerous pollution.
* At the same time, he is dismantling health protections that safeguard Americans against pollutants like mercury, lead, arsenic, and toxic pesticides. And he’s packed the EPA with industry lobbyists and insiders to push this dangerous agenda.
* Pruitt is not working to protect the health or safety of the American people. Instead, he’s working to line the pockets of big polluters at the expense of our health and environment.

**Scott Pruitt’s attempts to repeal the Clean Power Plan are emblematic of his toxic approach to policymaking. His rollbacks of environmental and health protections could cost thousands of American lives.**

* April 26th is the final day for the public to comment on Scott Pruitt’s proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan, which set the first-ever federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants and encourages investment in the job-creating clean energy sector.
* Americans have already submitted more than 9 million comments in support of strong limits on carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.
* Pruitt is ignoring those concerns and rolling back the Clean Power Plan anyway. He is also ignoring the Trump administration’s own estimates, which show that the Clean Power Plan could save up to 4,500 lives per year once fully implemented.
* Pruitt is putting corporate polluters first, at the expense of our health, environment, and economy.

**Scott Pruitt has failed the American people, failed to uphold the EPA’s mission to protect public health and the environment, and failed to meet the standard of conduct required by a public servant. He’s unfit for office and Trump should fire him immediately.**

* A group of 39 senators and 131 representatives have joined a historic resolution calling on Scott Pruitt to step down due to his repeated abuses of power, ethics violations, and actions that fundamentally undermine the mission of the EPA.
* Several prominent conservatives have likewise called on Pruitt to resign or be fired, including three sitting Republican members of the House of Representatives. Dozens more high-profile Republicans have raised serious concerns about his unethical actions. And the powerful chairs of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and House Oversight Committee have launched inquiries into Pruitt’s use of secret email accounts and his abuse of taxpayer money.
* Americans deserve an EPA administrator who will uphold the agency’s mission of protecting our health and environment. Scott Pruitt has broken the public’s trust with his dirty dealings and toxic agenda. He needs to resign immediately. If he won’t, the president should fire him.

**Scott Pruitt is unfit to hold this or any other job in government. He has squandered hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on luxury travel, massive pay raises for close aides, and upgrades to his personal office—all while breaking federal law and violating multiple ethics rules.**

* Scott Pruitt is under at least 12 separate federal investigations for violating ethics rules, abusing taxpayer funds, and breaking federal law.
* The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently concluded one of its investigations into Pruitt’s conduct, finding that he broke the law by failing to alert Congress before spending taxpayer funds to install a $43,000 soundproof phone booth in his personal office. Now, the White House, led by Mick Mulvaney, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, has launched its own probe into Pruitt’s secret phone booth.
* Pruitt has spent more than $150,000 on luxury travel, including private jets and first-class airline tickets.
* He’s lavished huge pay raises on his closest aides, including giving one personal friend a 72 percent pay bump. He gave another aide a raise of $56,765, an amount nearly equivalent to the average household income for American families.
* And he’s demoted, reassigned, or fired at least five EPA staff members who raised questions about his reckless spending habits.
* Pruitt also lived in a luxury condo in D.C. for $50 a night – a fraction of the market value – thanks to a sweetheart deal he cut with a longtime campaign donor and lobbyist representing clients with business before the EPA.
* Pruitt’s excessive spending and travel luxuries on the taxpayer dime didn’t even benefit the taxpayers. Instead, his lavish, taxpayer-funded globetrotting has been on behalf of big polluters and his lobbyist landlords.