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

On May 16th, embattled Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt will head to Capitol Hill to testify before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. Pruitt will appear before the Committee 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.

**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 pollution and the impacts of climate change, Pruitt acts on behalf of his polluter industry allies—letting them break the law and get away with it.
* By slashing health protections left and right, Pruitt is making America’s pollution problem worse, especially for African American and Latino communities, and undermining the green economy that could create job opportunities.
* 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.
* Pruitt’s attempts to repeal the lifesaving Clean Power Plan and the clean car standards are emblematic of his toxic approach to policymaking. His rollbacks of environmental and health protections could cost thousands of American lives and dramatically increase the amount of carbon pollution in our air.

**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.**

* 195 members of Congress, including both Republicans and Democrats, have called on Pruitt to step down due to his repeated abuses of power, ethics violations, and actions that fundamentally undermine the mission of the EPA.
* In addition to the several prominent conservatives who have called on Pruitt to resign or be fired, dozens more high-profile Republicans have raised serious concerns about his unethical actions.
* 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 corrupt, 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 15 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 $200,000 on luxury travel, including private jets, first-class airline tickets, and expensive dinners at exclusive restaurants. At EPA, Pruitt provided his staff with a wishlist of foreign countries that he wanted to visit and then instructed them to find official reasons for him to travel there.
* A number of Pruitt’s unethical entanglements with corporate lobbyists have also been recently exposed. As EPA administrator, he cut a deal with a longtime campaign donor and lobbyist representing clients with business before the EPA to rent a luxury condo in Washington for just $50 a night – a fraction of market value.
* That’s not the only time he’s relied on a lobbyist for housing favors. As a state senator in Oklahoma, Pruitt used a shell company to buy a house from a lobbyist for $100,000 less than she paid for it. Then, Pruitt sold the property at a substantial profit.
* Pruitt has also relied on lobbyists to plan his international itineraries. One lobbyist who was deeply involved in Pruitt’s controversial trip to Morocco subsequently received a $40,000 a month contract from the Government of Morocco to lobby in Washington. Other lobbyists and conservative campaign donors were involved in planning Pruitt’s canceled trips to Israel and Australia.
* Pruitt has also 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 expressed concerns about his reckless spending habits.
* 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.
* But as fast as Pruitt can blame his staff for his own transgressions, top aides are resigning left and right as they jump off his sinking ship. Pruitt needs to be the next to follow.