**CAC Talking Points: Pruitt Putting Lives on Markdown**

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who is charged with protecting Americans’ health and environment, is moving ahead to change the cost-benefit calculations underpinning a broad range of the EPA’s health and environmental safeguards, seeking to discount the benefits of keeping Americans alive. He’s radically distorting the science and economics to downplay the dangers of pollutants and ignore the benefits of curbing them. In a notice [launching 30 days of public comment](https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/increasing-consistency-and-transparency-considering-costs-and-benefits), Pruitt’s EPA forecast a wave of possible revisions to rules governing air, water, solid waste, chemicals, and climate change.

* Pruitt has proposed a new rule that would drastically change how the EPA evaluates federal health and environmental safeguards, prioritizing the costs for companies to comply with rules over the benefits that pollution protections have on our communities’ health and safety.
* This would mean that lifesaving protections like the Clean Power Plan, which sets the first limits on carbon pollution from power plants and would save up to 4,500 lives every year by 2030 by the Trump administration’s own analysis, could be reworked by Pruitt to be less protective.
* Pruitt’s effort is based on a longstanding industry lie: that federal rules cost more than benefits. In fact, the opposite is true. The benefits of public health protections far exceed the cost of adopting them.
* The Trump administration’s own Office of Management and Budget [found](https://www.eenews.net/assets/2018/02/26/document_pm_01.pdf) that for every dollar spent complying with safeguards, Americans received between $2-$12 in benefits.
* From day one, Pruitt has censored science and cooked the books in an attempt to justify doing the bidding of polluters, industry lobbyists, and campaign donors.
* He’s undermined scientific advisory boards, slashed funding for vital research, and attempted to censor peer-reviewed research - and even the EPA’s own website - to downplay the threats of climate change and dangerous chemicals.
* The less we value the health of our children, families, and communities, the easier it is to justify letting industry pollute. By censoring science and taking drastic aim at health and climate protections, Pruitt is shamelessly rejecting the EPA’s mission to protect public health and the environment.
* Despite his snowballing scandals and unethical behavior, this is just another example of Pruitt aggressively pursuing a toxic agenda that threatens Americans’ health.
* From directing his aides to shop for used mattresses for his home, to using his security detail to fetch him luxury lotion and pick up his dry cleaning, Pruitt’s inappropriate conduct makes a mockery of the standards of conduct Americans expect from their public officials.