**CAC Message Guidance: Scott Pruitt Resigns**

**From day one, Pruitt was unfit to serve as EPA administrator**

* The EPA is the environmental cop on the beat, charged with protecting public health and our environment. Scott Pruitt forced EPA to stray from that mission by eliminating science-based policy making and stacking the agency with industry lobbyists and climate deniers.
* The crushing weight of Pruitt’s ethics scandals aside, Pruitt’s close alliance with big corporations and his failure to adhere to existing laws like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act proved him unfit to lead the EPA.
* Americans strongly disapproved of Pruitt’s rollbacks on life saving environmental protections. They want the EPA to protect children, seniors and all vulnerable populations.

**With Pruitt removed from office, it’s time for a clean start at EPA**

* With Scott Pruitt gone, we have a chance at a clean start for the EPA.
* We can start with a nominee that is believes in the EPA’s mission to protect our health and environment.
* The EPA deserves a clean start - and that starts with nominating an EPA administrator who respects our environmental laws, is guided by science and puts children’s health ahead of special interests.
* Any nominee must pledge to uphold the agency’s mission, to respect science and scientists and restore their function at the EPA, and to empower EPA’s enforcement function that protects Americans from pollution and holds polluters accountable for their bad actions.
* Any nominee should pledge to end the policies of secrecy and the wasteful spending that were hallmarks of the Pruitt regime and embrace oversight from Congress.
* Any nominee should commit to ensuring that environmental justice is a central tenet to all agency policy making and enforcement actions.
* Americans didn’t vote for dirtier air, water and land. They want common sense protections from dangerous pollution that threatens our air, land, water and wildlife.
* To restore the public trust in the office of the administrator, the Senate should demand a full and complete nomination process, including public hearings and a confirmation vote.
* Additionally, Congress should demand that all investigations into Pruitt’s ethics abuses be completed in a timely manner and all findings be released to the public and that political appointees connected to Pruitt should resign immediately.
* The ouster of Scott Pruitt is a huge victory for American families and for clean air, clean water, and public health.

**Andrew Wheeler is a former coal industry lobbyist who will advance a big polluter agenda that rejects science, endangers health and undermines clean energy. As Pruitt’s understudy and as an industry insider, Wheeler will step right in and continue the corporate cronyism that was the hallmark of Pruitt’s tenure at EPA.**

* Andrew Wheeler means more of the same at EPA, it’s just out with the guy who was paid by the lobbyists, in with the guy who was paid as a lobbyist.
* Andrew Wheeler comes straight from the D.C. swamp – he’s a Washington coal lobbyist who represented one of the biggest polluters in the country, Murray Energy.  As deputy administrator, Wheeler was complicit in Pruitt’s ant-health and environment agenda and will feel very comfortable in the culture of corporate cronyism fostered by Pruitt.
* With Wheeler in charge, polluters and their lobbyists are in charge. The days of clean air, water and land are numbered and the health and safety of our children, seniors and families will not be a concern for a Wheeler-led EPA.
* Wheeler would lead an EPA inner circle established by Pruitt that’s jam-packed with industry lobbyists and corporate executives. His staff meetings will be a who’s who of polluting industry lobbyists now on the government payroll.
* Wheeler’s record and close association to polluting industries give no indication that he would be any different from Pruitt – and would continue the big polluter agenda that puts our health at risk.
* It’s doubtful Wheeler would behave any different from Pruitt when it comes to accepting settled science and addressing climate change.
* Too much damage was done to our health and environment under Pruitt’s reign – it’s the responsibility of Congress to make sure the American people aren’t saddled with yet another EPA chief who puts polluters ahead of the mission of the agency.
* If Andrew Wheeler is the new courier for Donald Trump’s dirty energy agenda, once again big polluters win while everyone else loses. Increasing pollution and endangering our families does nothing to make America great.